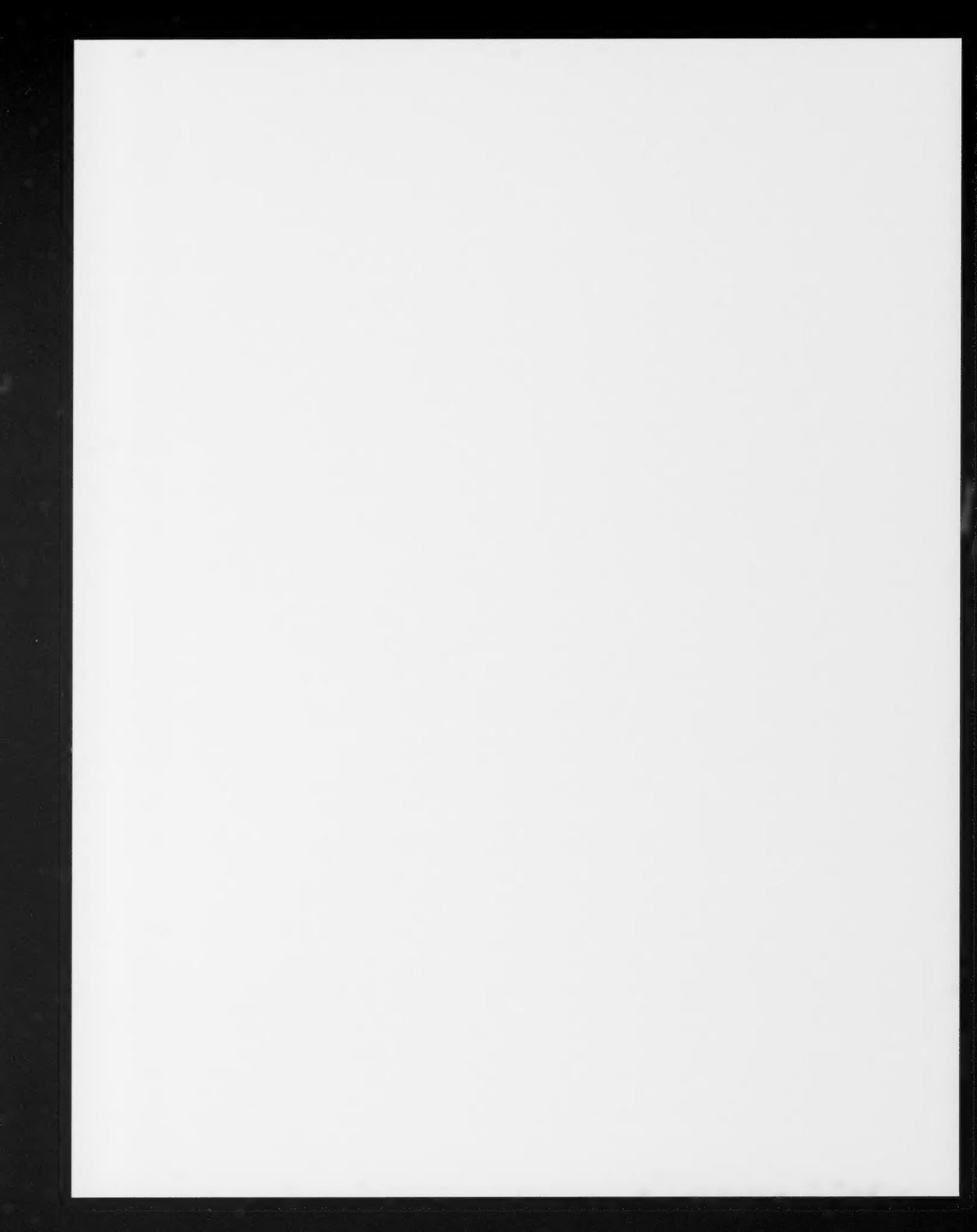


# *Report on the Budget 2014 Consultations*

*Select Standing Committee on Finance  
and Government Services*



NOVEMBER 2013





November 14, 2013

To the Honourable  
Legislative Assembly of the  
Province of British Columbia

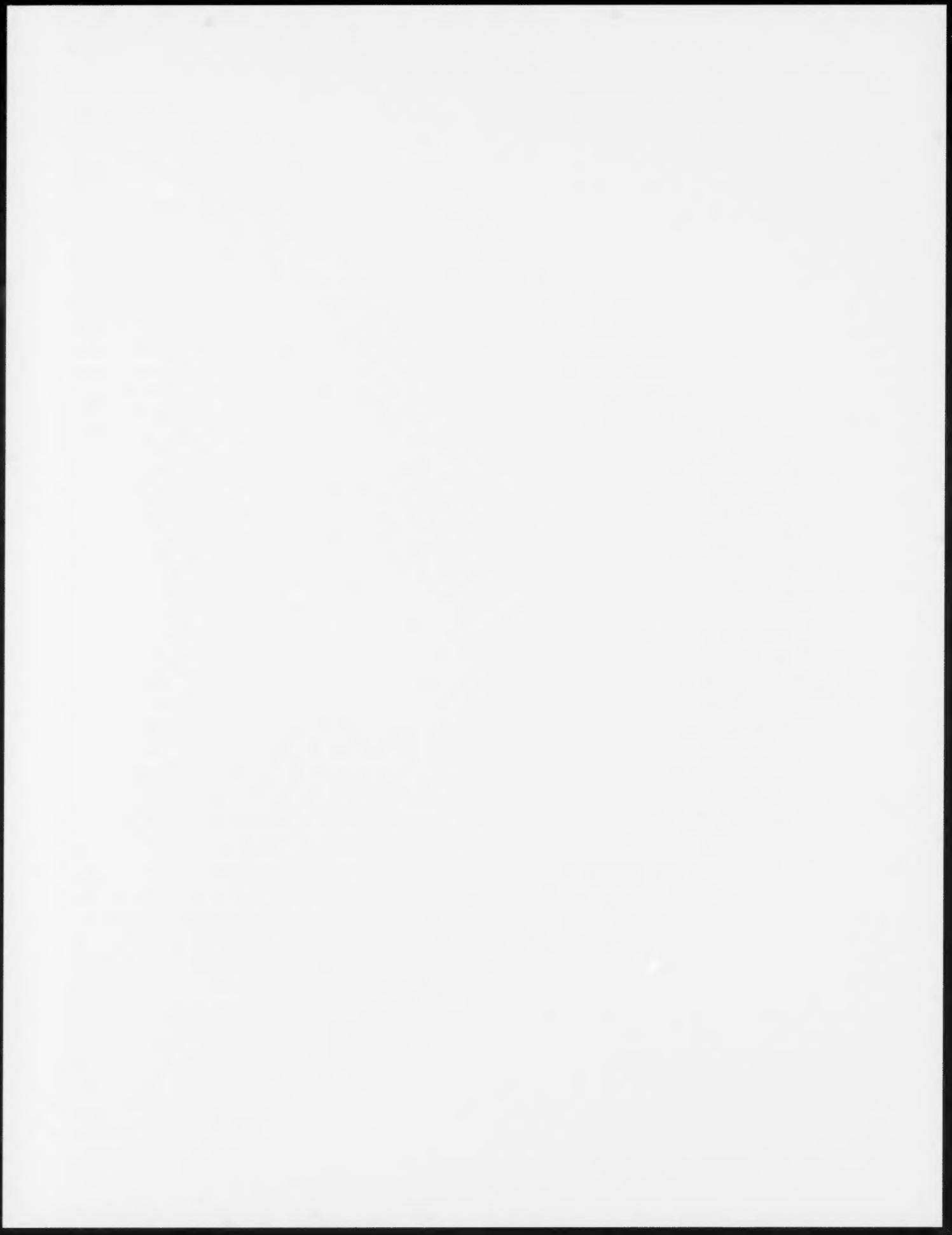
Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the First Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services for the first session of the 40<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2014 consultations, and was approved unanimously by the Committee.

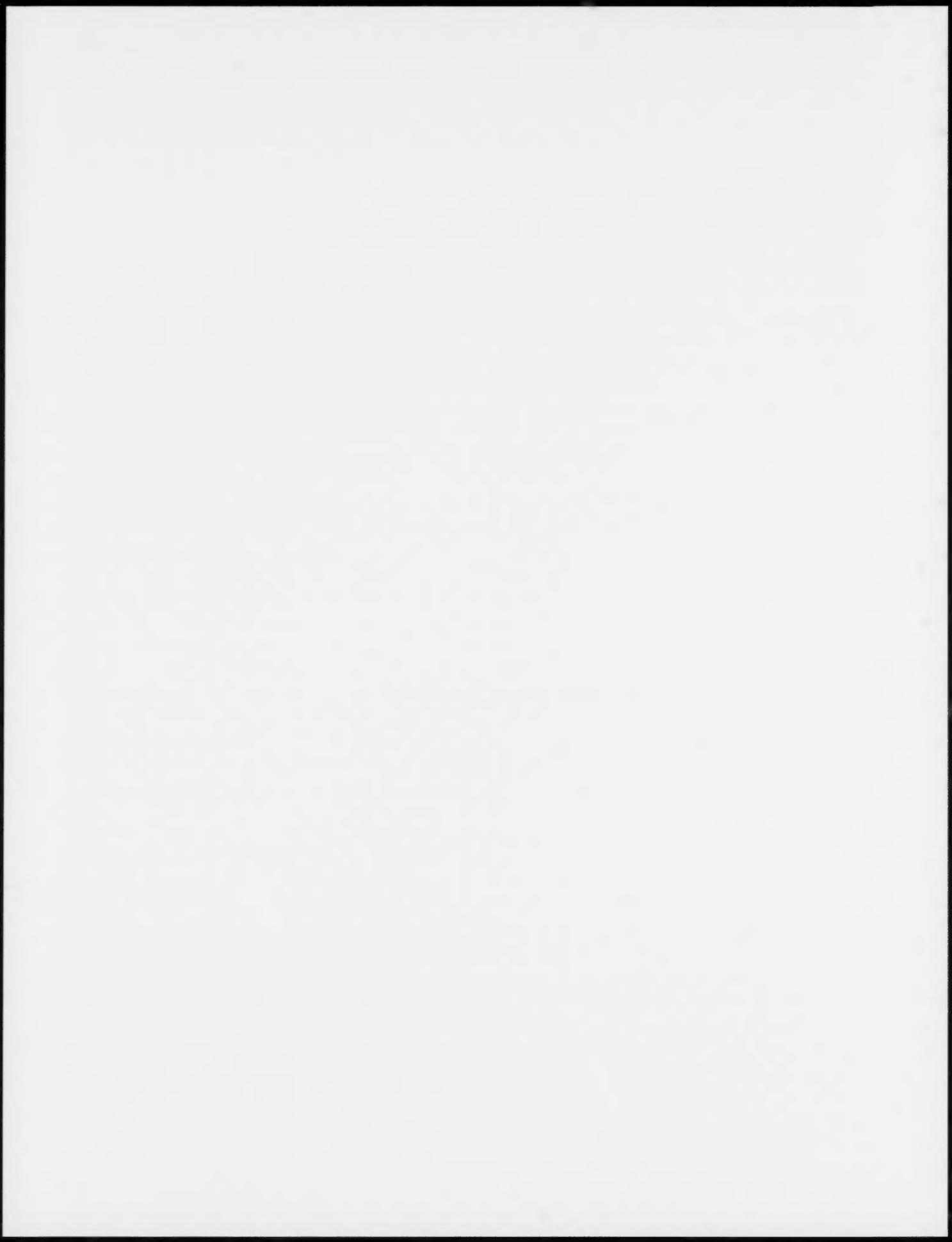
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Dan Ashton, MLA  
Chair



## Table of Contents

Composition of the Committee .....	i
Terms of Reference .....	ii
Executive Summary.....	iii
Budget 2014 Consultation Process .....	1
Budget 2014 Consultation Paper.....	1
Consultation methods .....	3
Meetings schedule .....	6
Fiscal Policy .....	7
Recommendations.....	12
Natural Resources .....	13
Recommendations.....	19
Education.....	21
Recommendations.....	27
Health.....	29
Recommendations.....	33
Community and Social Services .....	34
Recommendations.....	38
Environment.....	40
Recommendations.....	42
Justice .....	43
Recommendations.....	46
Summary of Recommendations.....	47
Appendix A: Public Hearing Witnesses .....	52
Appendix B: Written Submissions.....	58
Appendix C: Online Survey Respondents.....	60



## Composition of the Committee

### Members

Dan Ashton, MLA	Chair	Penticton
Mike Farnworth, MLA	Deputy Chair	Port Coquitlam
Mable Elmore, MLA		Vancouver-Kensington
Eric Foster, MLA		Vernon-Monashee
Scott Hamilton, MLA		Delta North
Gary Holman, MLA		Saanich North and the Islands
Marvin Hunt, MLA		Surrey-Panorama
Lana Popham, MLA		Saanich South
Jackie Tegart, MLA		Fraser-Nicola
John Yap, MLA		Richmond-Steveston

### Clerks to the Committee

Craig James, Clerk of the House  
Susan Sourial, Committee Clerk

### Research Staff

Byron Plant, Committee Research Analyst  
Aaron Ellingsen, Gordon Robinson, and Ron Wall, Committee Researchers

## Terms of Reference

On July 8, 2013, the Legislative Assembly agreed that the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services be empowered:

1. To examine, inquire into and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* and, in particular, to:
  - a. Conduct public consultations across British Columbia on proposals and recommendations regarding the provincial budget and fiscal policy for the coming fiscal year by any means the committee considers appropriate, including but not limited to public meetings, telephone and electronic means;
  - b. Prepare a report no later than November 15, 2013 on the results of those consultations; and

In addition to the powers previously conferred upon the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, the committee shall be empowered:

- a. to appoint of their number one or more subcommittees and to refer to such subcommittees any of the matters referred to the Committee;
- b. to sit during a period in which the House is adjourned, during the recess after prorogation until the next following Session and during any sitting of the House;
- c. to adjourn from place to place as may be convenient; and
- d. to retain personnel as required to assist the Committee,

and shall report to the House as soon as possible, or following any adjournment, or at the next following Session, as the case may be; to deposit the original of its reports with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly during a period of adjournment and upon resumption of the sittings of the House, the Chair shall present all reports to the Legislative Assembly.

## Executive Summary

This year's public consultations on next year's provincial budget began on September 10 with the release of "Budget Consultation Paper 2014: Balanced Budgets" by the Minister of Finance. Over the following five-week period, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) held public hearings in 17 BC communities, and videoconference sessions in an additional five locations. The Committee also invited written submissions and responses to an online survey asking British Columbians to state their priorities for Budget 2014. A total of 674 submissions were received.

This report summarizes the input received and makes a total of 73 recommendations for government to consider for Budget 2014. In addition to identifying priority areas for next year's budget, recommendations focus on ways to generate new revenue, find efficiencies, and reallocate existing resources to help expedite economic recovery. All of the recommendations were unanimously approved by the Committee, and were the result of collaborative efforts throughout the consultation process.

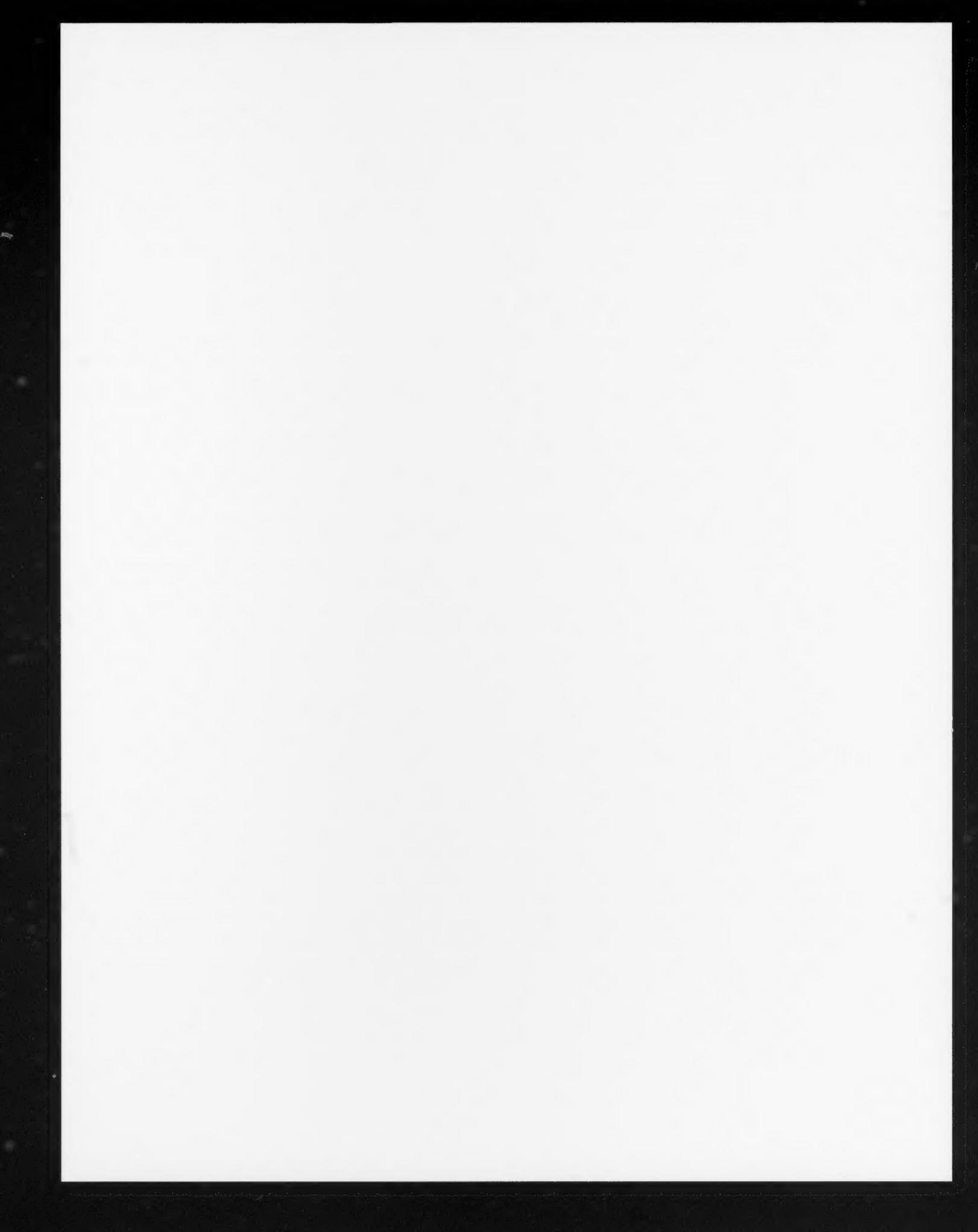
On fiscal policy, this report affirms the need to balance the budget and work to reduce the provincial debt, key themes in the budget consultation paper. To this end, specific suggestions are made to improve the existing tax regime in order to maximize incentives and productivity for BC businesses.

Several recommendations focus on natural-resource development. Ideas are presented on how best to proceed with liquefied natural gas development, and support the communities and infrastructure needed to facilitate growth. Recommendations on forestry and agriculture suggest ways to assist specific industries and address local needs.

In the areas of education and health, suggestions are made to address highest-need areas, such as services in rural-remote areas, and to explore innovations that may result in cost-savings to government. Specific suggestions are made to adopt new programs and policies that would alleviate skilled labour shortages, increase post-secondary opportunities, and enhance local health services.

Recommendations in the areas of community and social services include ways to foster BC's cultural sector, improve community-based services for BC families, and ensure that targeted programs are available to assist those in most need.

The last two sections, environment and justice, contain recommendations on topics such as invasive species, emergency preparedness, and the justice system. Proposals in these areas seek to foster responsible environmental stewardship, public safety, and timely and equitable access to justice for all British Columbians.



## Budget 2014 Consultation Process

On July 8, 2013, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion instructing the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) to examine, inquire into, and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Ministry of Finance.

Section 2 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires the Minister of Finance to make public a budget consultation paper by September 15 in each year. The paper must include a fiscal forecast, key issues to be addressed in the next provincial budget, and information on how members of the public may provide their views on those issues. Upon its release, the paper stands referred to Committee. The Committee then conducts consultations as it considers appropriate and must make public a report on the results of those consultations by November 15.

### Budget 2014 Consultation Paper

Released on September 10, 2013, this year's paper, "Budget Consultation Paper 2014: Balanced Budgets" described how ongoing challenges in the global economy, combined with a softer domestic economy this year, mean the provincial government must continue fiscal discipline to maintain balanced budgets. The paper outlined current government priorities, including job creation for future generations, skills training, the knowledge economy, a competitive business environment, health outcomes, and keeping taxes low. British Columbians were invited to share their priorities for the budget by attending a public hearing, making a written submission, or completing an online survey.

#### Budget consultation questions

The budget consultation paper contained the following series of questions:

1. Now that BC has returned to balanced budgets, government will aim to strike a balance between keeping costs affordable for families, providing new services, and reducing taxpayer-supported debt. If you could share one dollar across these priorities, how would you divide it up?

- Reducing taxes and costs for families. \_\_\_\_\_ ¢
- Investing in new programs and services. \_\_\_\_\_ ¢
- Faster debt reduction. \_\_\_\_\_ ¢
- Public Sector Compensation. \_\_\_\_\_ ¢

100 ¢

2. Government will still need to make tough choices and control spending to keep the budget balanced. This means little new funding is available for new or expanded programs and services. Some programs and services may no longer serve their original purpose. Reducing or eliminating these costs may help make funding available for other more important programs.

- What are priority programs and services that government should continue or develop?
- What could government do differently to help reduce costs to government and taxpayers?
- What programs or services should government reduce or eliminate to help save taxpayers' money, or free up funding for higher priority programs and services?

3. If you have one dollar in new funding to share across programs and services the government delivers, how would you divide it up?

• Healthcare	_____ ¢
• Social services, including social assistance, child care, and child welfare	_____ ¢
• K-12 education	_____ ¢
• Post-secondary education and skills training	_____ ¢
• Policing and public safety	_____ ¢
• Roads, highways and bridges	_____ ¢
• Natural resources, economic development	_____ ¢
• Environmental protection and parks	_____ ¢
• Debt reduction	_____ ¢
• Tax reduction	_____ ¢
	<hr/>
	100 ¢

4. Programs and services are largely funded by tax revenues, and government works to balance where the money comes from. How would you generate one new dollar of tax revenue from among the sources below?

• Personal income tax	_____ ¢
• Corporate tax	_____ ¢
• Fuel tax	_____ ¢
• Carbon tax	_____ ¢
• Property tax	_____ ¢
• Property transfer tax	_____ ¢
• Health care premiums	_____ ¢
• Provincial sales tax (PST)	_____ ¢
• Tobacco Tax	_____ ¢
• User fees and licenses	_____ ¢
	<hr/>
	100 ¢

5. What measures could government take to increase government revenues, which could then be used to support your priorities?

## Finance Minister's briefing

The Finance Minister appeared before the Committee on September 10, 2013, to discuss the budget consultation paper and first quarterly report for 2013/14.

The presentation included an update on the provincial financial outlook based on data collected in the first quarter. The Minister stated that revenues are expected to increase by \$69 million and expenses are projected to grow by \$86 million, in part due to statutorily required costs such as fire and flood control. He also reported that the surplus was now estimated to be \$137 million, less than the February forecast (\$200 million) and the adjusted estimate (\$156 million) in the June update. Other topics covered in the presentation included the provincial debt, BC's real GDP output, risks, and property and asset sales.

The Minister stated that whatever recommendations emerge or are implemented from the consultation process will need to be accommodated within the context of a balanced budget. It was also suggested that the Committee consider how to allocate modest surpluses in future years as economic conditions improve.

## Consultation methods

Several consultation methods were used to collect public input. As in previous years, the Committee travelled throughout the province to hold community public hearings. Video conferencing technology was also used to hear from several other communities. In addition, British Columbians were invited to send written submissions, including audio or video files, or complete a short online questionnaire containing questions from the budget consultation paper.

A new Committee website was launched in conjunction with the start of this year's consultations. The website, located at <http://www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/finance>, contained information on how to participate in the consultations, along with online forms for written submissions and the online survey. The website was regularly updated during the consultation period with meeting notices, transcripts of proceedings, media releases, and other information.

The consultations were publicized a number of different ways. On September 6, 2013, a province-wide news release was issued announcing the Committee's consultation plans and the locations of the public hearings. Newspaper advertisements were also placed in major provincial and community newspapers, and media advisories were issued in each scheduled public hearing community. A second province-wide news release was distributed on September 10, 2013 inviting submissions before the consultation deadline of October 16, 2013.

The work of the Committee was also promoted through social media. For the third consecutive year, updates and announcements of Committee activities were posted to the Parliamentary Committees Facebook page. Facebook advertisements were also used to invite participation in the consultations. In addition, a new Committee Twitter page was launched in conjunction with the start of the

consultations for announcements of upcoming public hearings and other key activities. This marked the first time that Twitter has been used by a parliamentary committee in BC.

#### Public hearing presentations

During the consultation period, the Committee held 17 public hearings in communities spanning all regions of the province. Two additional video conference hearings were also held, covering five additional locations.

In total, the Committee heard 243 oral presentations from a range of individuals and organizations representing business, industry, local government, labour, and other sectors. All of the presenters are listed in Appendix A.

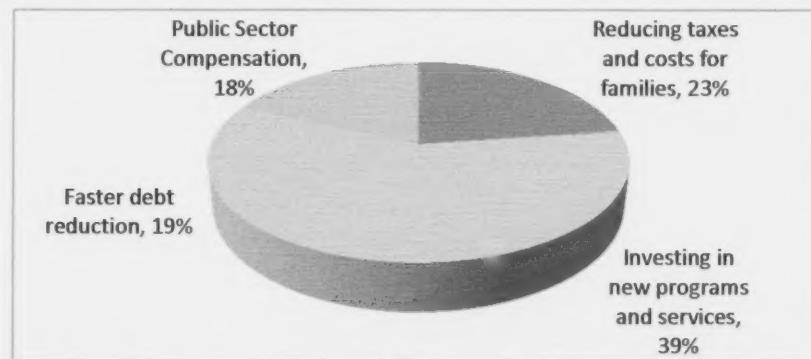
#### Written submissions

Over the course of the consultations, 169 written submissions were received. The names of all individuals and organizations that provided written submissions are listed in Appendix B.

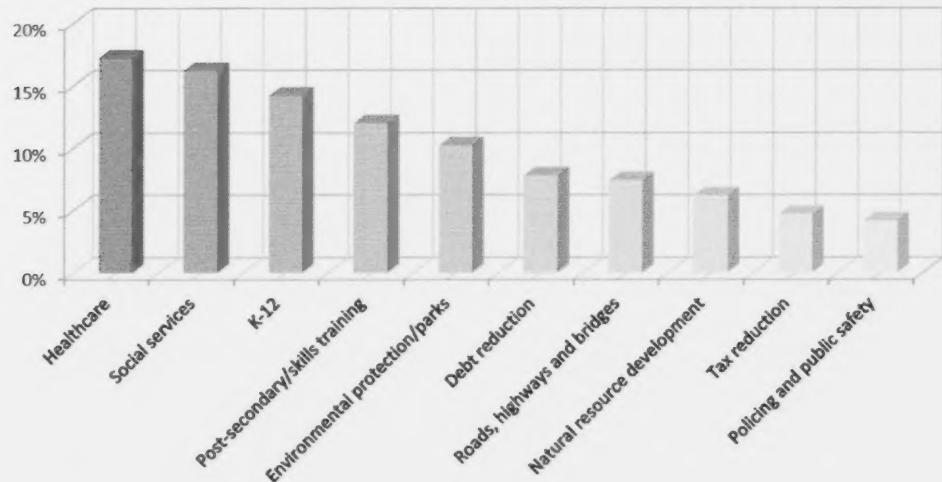
#### Online survey responses

Listed in Appendix C are the 262 individuals and organizations that completed the online survey. Their responses to the following three multiple-choice questions are presented below:

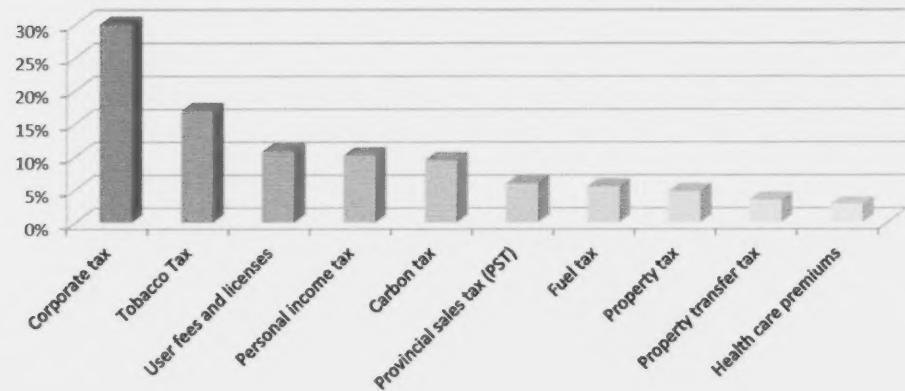
Now that BC has returned to balanced budgets, government will aim to strike a balance between keeping costs affordable for families, providing new services, and reducing taxpayer-supported debt. If you could share one dollar across these priorities, how would you divide it up?



If you have one dollar in new funding to share across programs and services the government delivers, how would you divide it up?



Programs and services are largely funded by tax revenues, and government works to balance where the money comes from. How would you generate one new dollar of tax revenue from among the sources below?



### Core Review

During the consultations on Budget 2014, the Committee also received submissions relating to the provincial core review of government programs announced on June 26, 2013. Approximately 90 submissions were received, mostly on the topic of the Agricultural Land Reserve.

## Meetings schedule

July 22, 2013	Organizational Meeting	Victoria
September 10, 2013	Minister's Briefing	Victoria
September 20, 2013	Public Hearing	Vancouver
September 23, 2013	Public Hearing	Surrey
September 24, 2013	Public Hearing	Port Coquitlam
September 24, 2013	Public Hearing	Chilliwack
September 25, 2013	Public Hearing	Kamloops
September 25, 2013	Public Hearing	Merritt
September 26, 2013	Public Hearing	Victoria
September 30, 2013	Public Hearing	Cranbrook
October 1, 2013	Public Hearing	Trail
October 1, 2013	Public Hearing	Penticton
October 2, 2013	Public Hearing	Kelowna
October 2, 2013	Public Hearing	Nanaimo
October 3, 2013	Video conference hearing Courtenay	Victoria
October 7, 2013	Public Hearing	Dawson Creek
October 8, 2013	Public Hearing	Prince George
October 8, 2013	Public Hearing	Williams Lake
October 9, 2013	Public Hearing	Smithers
October 9, 2013	Public Hearing	Prince Rupert
October 16, 2013	Video conference hearing Quesnel, Fort St. John, Terrace, and Vernon	Victoria
October 24, 2013	Deliberations	Victoria
October 25, 2013	Deliberations	Victoria
October 29, 2013	Deliberations	Victoria
November 6, 2013	Deliberations	Victoria
	Approval of Report	

## Fiscal Policy

Provincial fiscal policy was a prominent theme in this year's consultations. At the public hearings, associations representing the business community emphasized the importance of balancing the budget and maintaining fiscal prudence as the province's economic outlook improves. The Committee also received submissions from industry-specific groups proposing measures to enhance competitiveness and mitigate taxation challenges. Written submissions and responses to the online survey further affirmed the value of a strong economy to British Columbians, along with the importance of keeping taxes low and costs affordable for families.

### Balanced budget

*"A balanced budget lays the groundwork for continued economic growth and job creation, which is a key priority of all governments across Canada."*

(Timothy Downing, Canadian Bankers Association, Written submission)

This year's budget consultation paper stated that government intends to continue to balance the budget for 2014, describing this as a first step toward a stronger economy and a debt-free future for BC. The paper also cautioned that ongoing challenges in the global economy, combined with a softer domestic economy this year, mean government must continue to maintain fiscal discipline, including controlling spending. This message was reiterated by the Finance Minister in his briefing on the first quarterly report on September 10, 2013.

The ongoing need for balanced budgets was a prominent message in this year's consultations. Representatives from the business community, including chambers of commerce and boards of trade, stated that balancing the budget is government's overriding priority, and key to job creation and attracting investment. A similar message was heard from groups such as the Canadian Bankers Association and the Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC. Responsible management of public finances, they maintained, requires government to remain focused on delivering a balanced budget.

Other submissions encouraged government to commit to maintaining balanced budgets in future years and work to manage the provincial debt. The Business Council of British Columbia, for example, advocated the adoption of explicit debt management targets/limits to strengthen the framework for fiscal policy decision-making and to help safeguard BC's top-ranked credit rating.

## Provincial Sales Tax

*“While the HST referendum is behind us, the need for reform is not.”* (John Winter, BC Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver public hearing)

On April 1, 2013, BC reinstated the provincial sales tax (PST), a retail sales tax payable on certain goods or services acquired for personal use or business use. The rate of PST charged on most goods and services is 7 percent. Businesses are required to register to collect PST if they sell or lease taxable goods, or provide software or taxable services in the ordinary course of business in the province.

The Committee heard repeated calls for government to consider reforms to the PST system to enhance the competitiveness of BC businesses. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, for instance, stated that while government has done a good job in aligning the PST with the federal GST registration, administration and reporting, more can be done to streamline the tax system. Other groups called for the implementation of recommendations by the 2012 Expert Panel on BC’s Business Tax Competitiveness, notably the creation of a value-added business transfer tax which would largely eliminate PST-related sales tax on business inputs. As a first step towards tax reform, government was asked to undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to improve the PST.

The Committee also received a joint written submission from four major forest products companies – International Forest Products, Tolko Industries, West Fraser Timber Company, and Canfor – discussing the impact of the return to PST on the silviculture industry. Committee members heard how the service of growing seeds into seedlings, previously not taxed under the former legislation, is now subject to PST as a related service. Regulatory changes were requested to restore the non-taxable status of growing seeds into seedlings.

## Carbon tax

*“BC is the only jurisdiction that has a carbon-pricing mechanism that does not protect energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries ... Other jurisdictions, like the European Union and Australia, have recognized this problem and implemented programs to protect industries.”* (Michael McSweeney, Cement Association of Canada, Vancouver public hearing)

Introduced on July 1, 2008 as part of the Climate Action Plan, the carbon tax applies to the purchase or use of fuels in the province. The carbon tax encourages individuals, businesses, industry, and others to use less fossil fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is revenue neutral, meaning every dollar generated by the tax is returned to British Columbians through reductions in other taxes. The final scheduled increase of the carbon tax took effect on July 1, 2012, following a review by the Ministry of Finance.

Submissions to the Committee raised concerns about the effect of the carbon tax on particular industries and regions of the province. At the Vancouver public hearing, for example, the Cement

Association of Canada pointed out that the current structure of the carbon tax makes it cheaper to import cement than to manufacture it in the province. The Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce also stated that the carbon tax is unfair to BC residents in northern and rural areas, where alternate energy options are not available. Local businesses, they noted, are at a competitive disadvantage to those in adjacent Alberta, where no such tax exists. The Committee was asked to recommend that the province work to develop solutions to level the playing field for industries and regions particularly affected by the carbon tax. Other submission to the Committee called for the carbon tax to be increased and broadened.

### Corporate tax

Corporations that maintain a permanent establishment in BC are required to file income tax returns. BC has two rates of corporation income tax: the general rate and the lower small business rate. Effective April 1, 2013, the higher rate of corporation income tax was increased from 10 percent to 11 percent.

The issue of corporate taxation was raised in several submissions to the Committee. Organizations such as the Vancouver Board of Trade and the Insurance Bureau of Canada expressed concern over the recent increase in the general corporate tax rate and called on government to return to the previous rate of 10 percent. Other submissions proposed that government maintain the current rate of taxation, but consider reductions in the future as finances permit. In contrast, a number of responses to the online survey expressed support for higher corporate taxation as a means for government to generate new revenue.

### Tax credits

#### BC film industry

*“British Columbia is a major centre for screen-based entertainment. Actually, throughout the world there’s an international marketplace that we service.”*

(Peter Leitch, Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Vancouver public hearing)

For over three decades, BC has been home to a successful film and television industry that encompasses physical production, visual effects, animation, and post-production. It has been estimated that the industry supports over 25,000 jobs and contributes an average of \$1 billion annually to the provincial economy. Government support is provided through the Film and Television Tax Credit, a program consisting of five distinct tax credits including a basic tax credit, regional and training tax credits, and a digital animation or visual effects tax credit.

Committee members heard from the BC film industry at the Vancouver public hearing. Representatives from the Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC explained that BC is a major centre for screen-based content creation servicing the international marketplace. They also

noted that since the industry is fiercely competitive and highly mobile, competitive government tax policies are critical. Among the specific requests was for post-production work to be eligible for the Digital Animation and Visual Effects (DAVE) tax credit to encourage further post-production in BC.

#### Mining industry

*"The future success of our industry will depend on the province maintaining its favourable tax support for the mineral exploration and mining sector and on working with all levels of government to prevent detrimental tax measures that may weaken BC's global competitiveness as a mining jurisdiction." (David Ewing, Mining Association of British Columbia, Vancouver public hearing)*

BC's mining industry is comprised of coal, metal, and other mineral producers with mining and smelter operations. In 2012, the sector comprised nearly 30 per cent of all BC exports and employed over 30,000 people, mostly in rural locations. Tax support for the mining sector is currently provided through the Mineral Tax Credit, which includes allowances, credits, and exemptions for industry. Government also provides incentives through the Mining Exploration Tax Credit. Corporations that are active members of partnerships conducting grassroots mineral exploration in the province are eligible for the credit.

The importance of maintaining a favourable tax environment for companies involved in mining and mineral exploration was affirmed during the Committee's travels. In Vancouver, the Mining Association of British Columbia talked about the need to continue working with all levels of government to prevent detrimental tax measures that may weaken BC's global competitiveness as a mining jurisdiction. In Prince George, the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia described how the province has attracted significant investment from intermediate and major international companies, as well as recent growth in interest from private companies. Both associations called on government to continue efforts to enhance BC's competitive edge as a destination for investment in mineral exploration and mining.

#### Other

##### Property Transfer Tax

The Property Transfer Tax (PTT) is a land registration tax payable for the purchase or acquisition of an interest in a property, calculated on the fair market value of the property. The current tax rate is 1 percent on the first \$200,000, plus 2 percent on amounts over \$200,000. First-time homebuyers are currently eligible for an exemption for purchases under \$425,000.

Representatives from the real estate industry called on government to make changes to the PTT to minimize its impact on homebuyers. The British Columbia Real Estate Association and local real estate boards proposed that the 1 percent threshold be indexed, using either Statistics Canada's New

Housing Price Index or the MLS® Home Price Index, and adjusted annually. It was also suggested that the 1 percent threshold be increased from \$200,000 to \$525,000, with 2 percent applying to the remainder of the fair market value. Such a change, they noted, would benefit homebuyers, particularly in expensive housing markets such as Vancouver and Victoria.

The Committee also received submissions calling for exemptions to the PTT. For example, a presenter in Nanaimo described how the tax places an unfair burden on people who are forced to downsize residences in order to accommodate a disability. Other submissions described how the PTT inhibits purchases by first-time homebuyers. The Committee was asked to address affordability issues and assist young families in owning homes.

#### Credit unions

*“Less tax has helped credit unions grow in this province; hire more British Columbians; lend to more families, small and medium-sized enterprises; and maintain strong BC businesses. This unintended increase in credit union taxes, as a result of this federal government policy change, could very well have the opposite effect.”* (Wendy King, Central 1 Credit Union, Victoria public hearing)

Credit unions provide a range of financial services to BC residents and businesses, including day-to-day banking, mortgages, investments, and financial planning. Approximately one in three British Columbians is a member of one of BC's 44 authorized credit unions.

Central 1 Credit Union, the trade association for credit unions in British Columbia and Ontario, presented at the Victoria public hearing. Central 1 described how credit unions have received tax exemptions from the federal and provincial governments as a means to level the playing field between banks and credit unions. Recent changes to the federal *Income Tax Act*, however, will phase out the federal tax exemption over a five-year period. Committee members heard how this change will result in an inadvertent increase in the provincial tax rate for BC credit unions, since the provincial exemption is currently based on eligibility for the federal deduction. The Committee was asked to recommend that provincial legislation be amended to maintain a tax neutral result for BC credit unions.

#### Conclusions

The Committee agrees that balancing the budget and maintaining fiscal discipline should remain top priorities for government. In keeping with the key theme of “Budget Consultation Paper 2014: Balanced Budgets,” the Committee endorses government’s plan to balance Budget 2014. Moving forward, the Committee also encourages a concerted effort to balance the budget in future years, and that a commitment be made to a comprehensive debt management plan.

On the PST, the Committee believes that opportunities exist to enhance the tax to maximize industry incentives and productivity. With this goal in mind, the Committee recommends that

government undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to reform the PST. This will require working closely with businesses and industries particularly affected by the tax. In addition, the Committee encourages government to restore previous PST exemptions, particularly those concerning the growth of seedlings for silviculture purposes.

With respect to other taxation, the Committee recommends that the application of the carbon tax be examined, with the objective of ensuring that the tax is fairly and equitably applied to domestic industries and northern communities. On corporate taxation, the Committee does not think that any adjustments to the rate are warranted during this time of economic recovery.

The Committee acknowledges the importance of BC's film, mining, and mineral exploration industries to the provincial economy. To ensure the vitality of these industries, the Committee recommends the continuation of tax credit programs proven to attract investment and enhance BC's competitive edge. Collaborative work should also be undertaken with the BC film industry to address specific issues such as exchange rates and the application of existing tax credits.

The Committee also recommends that the application of Property Transfer Tax be reviewed, and that special consideration be given to mitigating its impact on first-time homebuyers. As well, government is encouraged to maintain previous tax exemptions for BC credit unions, and to take necessary steps to address federal changes that impact the provincial exemption.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Fiscal Policy

1. Remain committed to balancing Budget 2014.
2. Commit to ongoing balanced budgets and a comprehensive debt management plan.
3. Undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to improve the provincial sales tax regime to increase the productivity of industry and business.
4. Consider restoring the PST exemption for silviculture-related services.
5. Ensure the equitable application of the carbon tax across all sectors, including examination of the impact of the tax on cement and agriculture.
6. Continue to maintain a competitive general corporate income tax rate.
7. Work with the film industry on issues that impact them (e.g. exchange rates and the Digital Animation and Visual Effects tax credit) to ensure that BC remains a competitive jurisdiction.
8. Maintain tax credits for the mining industry and mineral exploration and collaborate with municipal and federal counterparts to encourage policies that enhance BC's competitive edge.
9. Ensure that provincial tax legislation maintains the tax exemptions for BC credit unions.
10. Review the impact of the Property Transfer Tax on first-time homebuyers.

## Natural Resources

Topics relating to BC natural resource development received considerable attention during the consultations. At public hearings, particularly in the north, mining associations, local governments, and community stakeholders described the enormous economic potential of liquefied natural gas. Actions were proposed for government to seize new investment opportunities as well as to ensure that appropriate planning and community resources enable industrial growth.

Suggestions were also made to enhance BC's forestry and agriculture sectors. Forest companies, ranchers, and farming representatives appeared before the Committee to encourage policies and programs conducive to local businesses. Other submissions emphasized how BC transportation and energy infrastructure must be optimized to facilitate the transport of goods to domestic and foreign markets.

### Liquefied natural gas

*"The economic potential of our province's emerging LNG industry is considerable and can benefit generations to come. Providing investors with details of what fiscal regime they can expect is paramount and will enhance BC's competitiveness in this important sector."* (Edward Downing, Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, Written submission)

In February 2012, the government released a strategy proposing the development of a new liquefied natural gas sector in the province. LNG development is expected to produce approximately \$20 billion in new private sector investment, 800 new long-term jobs, and up to 9,000 more jobs during construction. Earlier this year, the province also announced that a prosperity fund would be created from LNG revenues, and allocated for the benefit of future generations in areas such as healthcare, education, employment, and vital infrastructure.

The Committee received considerable input on proposed LNG development during the consultations. For example, the Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research, a Smithers-based research organization, presented a detailed proposal for a strategic economic and environmental assessment of LNG developments in northwest BC. It pointed out that there are some 11 LNG projects at various stages of assessment, and the cumulative impact of the proposals is not being adequately assessed. The institute cited how a lack of coordinated planning in Australia resulted in the unnecessary construction of an LNG plant. Presenters also stated that a strategic environmental assessment could look at the creation of a common energy corridor that would facilitate the flow of electricity transmission, natural gas, and oil.

Other presentations to the Committee asked that government work to develop a definitive tax strategy that clarifies the LNG gas export tax, in addition to existing royalties and taxes. For example, a written submission from the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC requested development of a comprehensive tax strategy for liquefied natural gas to support investments in this emerging sector.

Additional input was received on the proposed prosperity fund. In Vancouver, for example, the BC Chamber of Commerce stated that the fund should have a well-defined and fixed contribution rate, and a fixed withdrawal rate with clearly articulated objectives as to what the fund will be used for. They also suggested that the fund be governed and managed by an independent board and fund manager overseen by the Minister of Finance.

### Northern infrastructure

*"We are currently in an area where there is much interest for the expansion of the resource-based transportation industry. These industries will require quality roads and bridges and community services, as well as reliable water and sewer services."* (Corinne Bomben, City of Prince Rupert, Prince Rupert public hearing)

Communities in northwest and northeast BC face unique challenges as a result of industrial and LNG development. With proposed projects estimated to create thousands of short- and long-term jobs, significant pressures will be placed on regional infrastructure such as roads, sewers, hospitals, schools, housing, and other services for new residents.

During the visits to northern BC communities, the Committee heard local governments, businesses, and community groups voice concern about the limited capacity of communities to address anticipated growth. In Prince Rupert, for instance, representatives from the City of Prince Rupert and the Port Authority stated that new roads and bridges, reliable water and sewer services, efficient public transit, and other community resources will be needed. Other groups such as the City of Fort St. John and the Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce requested assistance for specific capital projects to better serve community and industry. Overall, a clear message was heard for the provincial government to work with northern and rural communities to address expansion from industrial development.

The importance of allocating sufficient and timely resources to permit northern development was also expressed by regional stakeholders. For instance, Initiatives Prince George, a local economic development corporation, stated that good policies regarding natural resources revenue-sharing are needed to permit reinvestment in affected communities. Mining industry representatives also asked the Committee to lend support to the allocation of resources for the continuing negotiation and implementation of revenue-sharing agreements, strategic engagement agreements, and treaties with First Nations.

## Mining permitting

*“Permitting delays caused by a lack of sufficient resources or division of resources to other priorities delay private sector investment, job creation and, ultimately, economic recovery that the mining sector is poised to provide.”*

(David Ewing, Mining Association of British Columbia, Vancouver public hearing)

Natural resource projects in BC are subject to environmental assessment, First Nations consultation requirements, and permitting processes. Project approvals can involve multiple levels of government, different provincial ministries and agencies, and local First Nations groups.

The Committee received submissions from mining associations affirming the importance of reducing permitting times. In Vancouver, the Mining Association of British Columbia stated that key ministries must have the resources required to address permitting and First Nations consultation requirements in a timely manner. A similar message was heard in Prince George. The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia acknowledged recent improvements in the turnaround time for notice of work permit applications but encouraged government to work to achieve a 60-day target.

## Forestry permitting

*“We are concerned about staff reductions in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, including further reductions of staff available to do the things that on-the-ground contractors need, such as permit processing.”*

(MaryAnne Arcand, Central Interior Logging Association, Prince George public hearing)

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations oversees provincial forest stewardship policy, including the provision of timber supply, inventory, and tree improvement. The Ministry is also involved in the processing and issuing of permits required for commercial access to wood fibre.

In Prince George, the Central Interior Logging Association expressed concerns over staffing levels in the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, particularly with respect to the issuance of cut and road-building permits. The Committee was told that waiting weeks for a permit to operate can cost the industry millions of dollars, and that businesses are concerned that any further reductions in staffing will result in additional delays and lost opportunities.

## First Nations forestry

*"First Nations woodland licences, consultations, and revenue sharing need to be explored in order to allow First Nations to be a significant part of the forestry sector as well as gain socioeconomic benefits." (Tom Hoffman, Tolko Industries Ltd., Williams Lake public hearing)*

Partnerships and resource-sharing agreements with First Nations on forestry create jobs and foster economic development and capacity-building for Aboriginal communities. Since 2010, First Nations participation in the forestry sector has been enhanced through the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement. The agreement provides First Nations communities with economic benefits based on harvest activities in their traditional territories.

Tolko Industries Limited, a manufacturer and marketer of forest products, presented to the Committee in Williams Lake. The company talked about the importance of increasing First Nations participation in forestry, and the need for expanded access to forestry tenures, woodlands licences, and revenue-sharing agreements, including through the Forest Consultation and Revenue Sharing Agreement.

## Ranching industry

*"We understand that the government's mandate is to reduce spending, but without investing, progress cannot be achieved. We urge government to continue the red-tape reduction effort as well as refocusing the funds they have that are available into areas that would provide the most growth." (David Haywood-Farmer, British Columbia Cattlemen's Association, Kamloops public hearing)*

BC's ranching industry is responsible for the production of beef cattle on privately and publicly owned rangelands. The province has approximately 4,086 cattle ranches, located primarily in the southern and central interior, that comprise 5 percent of the national cow herd. The total economic contribution of the industry is estimated to be \$600 million annually.

Ranching industry representatives, including the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association, appeared before the Committee in Kamloops and Williams Lake. Committee members learned about the challenges facing ranchers, including the need to maintain water storage dams to meet provincial standards. Additional funds were requested to assist with the costs of hiring professional engineers to inspect dams to ensure safety and proper function, and to catch up on the backlog of safety reports and inspections.

The Committee also heard about the impact of trees affected by the mountain pine beetle. Falling dead trees, it was noted, can damage fences and are hazardous to rancher safety. To address this, the association recommended that government adopt a policy to allow tenure holders to remove dead timber within one tree-length of a range development.

## Buy Local/farmers' markets

*"Overall, farmers' markets are strengthening local economies and offering fresh, healthy food to British Columbians." (Jon Bell, BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Surrey public hearing)*

The presentation by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets in Surrey described the recent growth of popularity of farmers' markets and how 125 now operate in the province. Recommendations were made for renewed funding for the Buy Local agricultural program, which provides successful applicants matching funds up to \$100,000 to launch or expand local food marketing campaigns. The association also asked that a small grant program be developed to permit smaller farmers' markets the ability to participate. Other suggestions were made to bring wineries and craft breweries to farmers markets, to develop an online Marketsafe training course, and to work with municipalities to adopt best practices to strengthen local food and farmers' markets.

## Transportation infrastructure

*"We recommend that the provincial government continue the program of investment in key infrastructure, such as replacement of the Massey Tunnel and Pattullo Bridge, which will assist the Gateway in meeting growth objectives in an efficient and cost effective manner." (R.V. Wilds, British Columbia Wharf Operators' Association, Written submission)*

Provincial transportation infrastructure – including highways, bridges, railways, ports, and other transit options – is vital to the efficient transport of goods and services to markets. As a major gateway for Asian trade to North America and the world, BC's transportation networks are key to facilitating economic growth and development, a prominent theme in the BC Jobs Plan.

During its travels throughout the province, the Committee heard about the importance of transportation infrastructure to economic growth. In Prince Rupert, the province was asked to provide timely policy and strategic investment in critical infrastructure to enhance the competitiveness of the Prince Rupert Gateway, its associated northern trade corridor, and the BC export industries that depend on it. A similar message was heard in the Lower Mainland. The Vancouver Board of Trade and the British Columbia Wharf Operators' Association asked for continued development of sea, land, and rail infrastructure to solidify BC's role as Canada's Asia-Pacific gateway.

Transportation issues were also raised elsewhere in the province. In the interior, several local chambers of commerce discussed the need for improvements and upgrades to highways 3, 16, 97, and complete electrification of Highway 37. At the Vancouver public hearing, several presenters also talked about the need to enhance transportation services, particularly Lower Mainland public transit.

## BC Hydro

*“Reliable and consistent access to cost-effective transportation networks, infrastructure and electricity is key to productivity and getting our products and services to customers at home and abroad.”* (Marcia Smith, Teck Resources Ltd., Written submission)

BC Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to generate and deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to homes and businesses. The largest electric utility in the province, BC Hydro operates an integrated system with 31 hydroelectric facilities, three thermal generating plants, substations, and transmission lines.

The Committee heard from a wide range of stakeholders and citizens on BC Hydro. For example, environmental groups and representatives from the clean energy sector proposed reforms to metering and called for expansion of clean, renewable energy developments in the province. Mention of possible increases to BC Hydro rates was raised in other presentations and responses to the online survey. Industry groups, including Teck Resources Ltd., Canada’s largest diversified natural resource company, stressed that businesses must have access to affordable electricity. Its written submission specifically proposed improvements to enhance accountability at BC Hydro, such as strengthening oversight and accountability, and enhancing the responsible use of deferral accounts.

## Conclusions

The enormous economic potential of BC natural resources was clearly demonstrated to the Committee during the consultations, particularly during the travels to northern communities.

Three recommendations specifically target LNG development. The Committee recommends that government consider undertaking a cumulative environmental assessment of LNG projects, one that includes overall project assessments and consideration of a common energy corridor. An applicable tax strategy for LNG should also be developed and clarified, one that provides for industry incentives and greenhouse gas reductions to ensure a fair return for British Columbians. As well, the Committee endorses the proposed creation of a special fund to save a portion of resource revenues for the benefit of future generations.

The Committee is mindful of the impact natural resource development will have on residents in northern BC. The Committee therefore recommends that government work closely with rural communities to address capacity issues. This includes allocating sufficient and timely resources for community infrastructure. Furthermore, the Committee encourages exploration of revenue-sharing agreements and work with local First Nations to ensure economic benefits for all regional stakeholders.

An important step towards maximizing investment opportunities in BC natural resources is ensuring that permits are processed in a timely manner. The Committee recommends that government ensure key ministries are provided the resources they need to address mining and forestry approval

requirements. A recommendation is also made to expand First Nations access to forestry tenures to allow First Nations to be a more significant part of this sector.

The Committee acknowledges the important contributions of ranchers and the beef cattle industry to the provincial economy. Two recommendations are made to address specific challenges facing ranchers, specifically with respect to dam inspections and the removal of dead timber. It is also recommended that government provide ongoing, multi-year funding for the Buy Local agricultural program, and continue to support the development of farmers' markets.

Two additional recommendations target other areas key to facilitating economic growth, including enhancement of transportation infrastructure and strengthening oversight and accountability at BC Hydro.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Natural Resources

11. Consider a strategic, cumulative environmental assessment of LNG projects in northwest BC and the creation of a common energy corridor for successful projects.
12. Develop a definitive tax strategy that clarifies the proposed LNG gas export tax, in addition to existing royalties and taxes, and provides incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
13. Commit a portion of future revenues from LNG and other natural resources to be saved for the benefit of future generations.
14. Work with northern and rural communities to address growth issues relating to industrial development, including timely provision of funds for community infrastructure.
15. Allocate resources for the continuing negotiation and implementation of revenue-sharing (economic and community development agreements), strategic engagement agreements, and treaties with First Nations.
16. Ensure key ministries have the resources they need to address permitting and First Nations consultation requirements for mining projects in a timely manner, and work to achieve a 60-day turnaround for notice of work permit applications.
17. Maintain funding for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to enable timely processing of all permits necessary to ensure access to fibre.
18. Expand First Nations access to forestry tenures, including woodlands licences and revenue-sharing agreements, to allow First Nations to be a significant part of the forestry sector.
19. Assist cattle ranchers with costs to hire professional engineers to inspect water storage dams to ensure safety and proper function.

20. Consider allowing tenure holders to remove dead timber within a one-tree length of range development, especially fences.
21. Provide multi-year funding for the Buy Local agriculture program and continue to support the development of farmers' markets.
22. Continue enhancing transportation infrastructure through strategic investments in gateway development, highway improvements, and public transit.
23. Strengthen oversight and accountability of BC Hydro, including enhancing the transparency and responsible use of deferral accounts.

## Education

Education, the second-largest areas of budgetary expenditure, garnered considerable attention during the consultations on Budget 2014. School administrators, teachers, and other stakeholder groups forwarded suggestions on how to improve K-12 outcomes, prepare youth for future careers, and support special education. Input was also received concerning other policy areas of the Ministry of Education, such as funding for public libraries and community literacy.

Ideas were presented to the Committee on how to improve post-secondary education. University and college administrators, student groups, business groups, and concerned citizens spoke about the need for enhanced funding and greater focus on skills and trades training, improved student access and affordability, and support for adult basic education.

### K-12

The provincial K-12 system is managed jointly by the Ministry of Education and BC's 60 local boards of education, and funded through core operating funds, annual facility grants, and targeted capital funding. Last year, over 530,000 students were enrolled in BC public schools.

#### K-12 funding

*"Unpredictable funding and unfunded cost increases require school districts to spend significant time and resources on balancing budgets each year instead of strategically planning the most effective use of funding to support student success." (Patti Bacchus, Vancouver Board of Education, Written submission)*

The Committee heard from a range of education stakeholders about the need for K-12 funding to address cost increases and to ensure the quality of public education. In Vancouver, for example, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation called for overall budgets to be increased, as well as for compensation to be provided for costs beyond district control, such as negotiated wage settlements, electricity rate increases, and student transportation. The British Columbia School Trustees Association, along with several local boards of education relayed a similar message: cost pressures are outpacing increases in funding and have long-term negative impacts on student achievement.

Submissions to the Committee also described aging infrastructure and the need for new capital projects and upgrades to existing facilities. Several district representatives articulated this point. The Vancouver Board of Education stated that more than 40 of its schools are rated as high risk and are in need of seismic upgrading or replacement. The government was asked to advance the pace of capital funding for the seismic program in order to ensure the safety of students and staff in the case of a seismic event.

## Trades and technology programming

*"We need to rethink how we do high school education, to reinstate trades training."* (Manley McLachlan, British Columbia Construction Association, Surrey public hearing)

Currently, trades training is provided in K-12 through courses in areas such as automotive technology, carpentry and joinery, drafting and design, and electronics. In addition, special programs are available to encourage youth to enter technology and trades career paths. For example, the ACE-IT program allows high school students to take first level technical training that gives them dual credit for both high school courses and apprenticeship or industry training programs.

Submissions to the Committee pointed out that more trades and technology programming is needed early on to encourage students to enter related career paths. The British Columbia Construction Association requested that trades training be made part of the core curriculum and that shop classes be refurbished to support this. The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC had a similar message: programming should be redesigned and funding re-allocated to allow for more technology courses in K-12. Modest start-up and operational funding was requested to promote technology education programming in K-12, similar to the ACE-IT program. The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Sunshine Coast Board of Education also asked for greater focus on trades training.

## Students with Special Needs

*"We work with more students with special needs without the specialist support that could make this much more effective."* (Jim Iker, British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Vancouver public hearing)

Special education programs and services enable students with special needs to have equitable access to learning and opportunities in the K-12 system. School boards are responsible for ensuring that special education services and programs are delivered to any of their students who require them.

The Committee heard several presentations from teachers and school boards citing increased numbers of special needs students. The British Columbia Teachers' Federation and local boards of education in Vancouver and the Peace River North, for example, stated that special needs students place additional strain on education budgets. The government was specifically requested to provide more learning assistance specialist teachers and to review and increase supplemental funding grants for students with special needs.

## Public Libraries

*"While provincial funding to libraries overall represents just 5 percent of library operating revenue, this ranges from a low of 2.5 percent in some large urban areas to a high of 58 percent in some small rural ones. Without stable provincial funding, some of these communities would not be able to support this vital element of community infrastructure at all." (Lauren Wolf, British Columbia Library Trustees Association, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

BC currently has 243 public library branches serving more than 360 communities throughout the province. Local governments fund the majority of public libraries' annual operating budgets, with provincial funding accounting for an average of 5.3 percent of library income. In 2012/13, \$14 million was provided for public libraries and library associations by the Ministry of Education.

The Committee received submissions voicing concern about the long-term financial health of public libraries. The British Columbia Library Trustees Association, for instance, explained that funding reductions and the disappearance of the separate provincial library budget line item in the Ministry of Education budget have created uncertainty about future provincial library support, and negatively affected long-term planning and investment. It was recommended that a commitment be made for stable, ongoing funding for BC libraries.

## Literacy

*"Our work supports the goals of the various ministries that are improving skills and training, the job market and the economy. We know that that's an important issue for all of us in BC today. This work would not continue without the continued support of the government." (Brenda Le Clair, Decoda Literacy Solutions, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

Services to promote literacy in BC are provided through Decoda Literacy Solutions, a coordinated network of 102 task groups in 400 BC communities that work with government, business, and community organizations to achieve local literacy goals. The budget for literacy coordination, provided by the Ministry of Education, is currently \$2 million.

At the Port Coquitlam public hearing, the Committee learned about the literacy and learning programs provided through the network, including how they help British Columbians lead healthier lives, make informed choices, and gain employment. The benefits of literacy programming were further affirmed in presentations and written submissions to the Committee from regional stakeholder groups. The consistent message was for government to increase the annual budget for literacy services to \$2.5 million, the amount provided in previous fiscal years.

## Post-secondary

Post-secondary education in BC is delivered by 25 institutes, including research-intensive universities, teaching-intensive universities, colleges, and institutes. Overseen by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills Training and Innovation, BC's public post-secondary institutions are included in the government reporting entity.

### Post-secondary funding

*“Given looming labour shortages and an increasingly competitive global knowledge-based economy, the province cannot afford to let up in its support for post-secondary education and research.”* (Andrew Petter, Simon Fraser University, Surrey public hearing)

A common request among administrators, faculty, and student groups was for sufficient core funding and operating grants. The Research Universities Council – which represents BC's six major research universities – explained that further reductions in operating grants would have a significant impact on the services provided by universities. Associations representing BC's colleges and institutes also requested that their budgets be increased and funds targeted to address demands and unequal regional access.

Several post-secondary institutions talked about accounting standards. It was noted that requirements within the government reporting entity limit institutions' ability to access non-taxpayer-supported debt. Representatives from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver and Okanagan), Thompson Rivers University, Okanagan College, College of New Caledonia, and College of the Rockies requested changes or exemptions to current rules to give institutions greater flexibility to finance much-needed capital improvements.

### Post-secondary access

*“Provincial operating funding for post-secondary education in BC is based loosely on a standard contribution per ‘seat’ or student full time equivalent, intended to be a measure of teaching capacity. There is a wide variance across institutions in the degree to which their allocated seats are filled, and costs differ across institutions.”* (Ruth Wittenberg, BC Association of Institutes and Universities, Written submission)

Post-secondary institutions serve a broad geographical region that includes major urban areas and rural-remote communities. The provision of equitable access to post-secondary education, including education services that meet the specific needs of communities, can be a challenge in a province as diverse and large as BC.

The Committee learned about the different needs of specific communities, including challenges to access in rural areas. The president of Northwest Community College, for example, described the

needs of smaller remote colleges, particularly the disproportionate effect of reduced funding on these institutions. A similar message was conveyed by the BC Association of Institutes and Universities. They explained that funding post-secondary seats at a standard rate results in disparities between large urban and smaller rural institutions. The former, they noted, have high capacity utilization, often above 100 percent, while the latter have low capacity utilization and higher delivery costs.

In Surrey, the Committee heard about the unique challenges facing areas with high population growth. The President of Simon Fraser University, along with representatives from the business community, pointed out that increasing demand for post-secondary spaces in Surrey, without a corresponding increase in seats, is driving up entrance requirements. The Committee was asked to recommend that government recommit to the 2006 MOU that promised to double the size of SFU Surrey from 2,500 to 5,000 students.

#### Skills and trades training

*“Continued and enhanced investment by government in BC’s colleges is absolutely necessary to ensure we have the workforce in place to meet the challenges of the future.”* (Dianne Teslak, College of the Rockies, Cranbrook public hearing)

BC is facing a shortage of skilled labour. The Industry Training Authority, which coordinates the skilled trades training and credentialing system, predicts that 43 percent of future jobs in BC will need some kind of trades or technical training. It also estimates that BC will face a shortfall of 160,000 skilled workers by 2015.

The Committee heard a clear message from industry, educators, and local governments about the need to increase investment in skills training at the post-secondary level. Representatives from the construction and mining sectors, for example, stated that the current shortage of skilled workers is a major challenge to industry growth. At public hearings in northern communities, college administrators, local government officials, and business groups similarly urged the Committee to recommend that sufficient training opportunities be made available for northern residents. Training northern residents, they argued, is key to retaining workers in the region.

Submitters also emphasized the need to target traditionally underrepresented groups for skilled trade training, such as new immigrants, women, and Aboriginal people. It was recommended that government work with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to continue to create training opportunities and apprenticeships, and to improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.

Committee members also learned about the important work done by the BC Aboriginal Mine Training Association. In Prince George, the Association for Mineral Exploration specifically recommended that funding be provided to ensure that both industry and Aboriginal communities benefit from BC mineral resource development.

## Student affordability

*"The students' share of the cost of post-secondary education has increased while core funding to our institutions and availability of financial aid have decreased. As a result, our members have directed that our organization prioritize seeking government measures to reduce student debt." (Katie Marocchi, Canadian Federation of Students, British Columbia, Surrey public hearing)*

More than 440,000 students are expected to register for at least one public post-secondary course in BC this year. Financial assistance for students in the province is administered through StudentAid BC. Available funding options include BC and Canada student loans, special grants, and loan repayment programs.

As in previous years, the Committee heard a strong message from student groups, faculty, and other post-secondary stakeholders about the need to keep higher education affordable for BC students. Numerous requests were made for government to reduce tuition fees, to establish an upfront, needs-based provincial student grant program, and to eliminate the interest charged on BC student loans. BC representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students told the Committee that average student debt for a four-year degree is just under \$35,000 and, with a ten year repayment schedule, interest payments exceed \$10,000.

Other proposals were made for government to do more to attract graduate students to BC. The Committee learned that a plan for a new graduate scholarship program has been proposed by graduate students at SFU, UBC, UNBC, and UVic which would increase the affordability of MA and PhD studies, and increase BC's competitiveness relative to other provinces.

## Adult basic education

*"It is vitally important we continue to provide adult basic education at all of our campuses. Adult learners need avenues to re-engage in post-secondary learning." (Leslie Molnar, College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Cranbrook public hearing)*

Adult basic education (ABE) in BC is provided tuition-free through course offerings at post-secondary institutions, at local continuing education centres, and online through LearnNowBC. ABE courses can lead to a high school diploma or Dogwood Certificate, and help to fulfil prerequisites for post-secondary programs.

The importance of adult basic education programs was conveyed in numerous submissions to the Committee. Post-secondary institutions, student unions, and faculty associations talked about the valuable role of ABE in equipping citizens with the skills necessary to find gainful employment. ABE was also highlighted as key to providing people with the minimum requirements needed to pursue post-secondary education.

## Conclusions

Sufficient evidence was presented to the Committee indicating that the K-12 system is experiencing cost pressures as a result of inflation and aging school facilities. The Committee therefore recommends that enough funding be provided to schools to meet rising costs and capital needs while ensuring strong educational outcomes for BC students.

The Committee also believes that the K-12 system can play an early role in ensuring that the province has a skilled workforce to meet growing labour demands. It recommends that necessary changes be made to K-12 programming to further promote career paths in trades and technology-related areas. The Committee is also concerned about the growing numbers of students with special needs, and recommends that this area be reviewed to ensure sufficient funding is in place. Further recommendations relate to other areas within the mandate of the Ministry of Education, including budgeting for public libraries and funding for community literacy work.

With respect to post-secondary education, recommendations are made to ensure that core funding is in place to allow institutions to fulfil their required mandates. As well, the Committee encourages government to work towards resolving the accounting issues that prevent institutions from accessing non-taxpayer supported debt.

The Committee sees a need to improve post-secondary accessibility. To this end, recommendations are presented to address regional disparities and communities with limited access to post-secondary education. With the province expecting a large shortfall of skilled workers by 2015, the Committee also suggests ways to increase opportunities for skills and trades training. These include specific proposals to target funding for policies and programs for British Columbians, including new Canadians and foreign tradespeople, and First Nations.

In addition, to improve post-secondary affordability, the Committee recommends several ways to alleviate costs for students completing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Committee also requests continued support for adult basic education programs, and further enhancements to this area when finances permit.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Education

24. Provide sufficient funding for the K-12 system to enable BC students to become top performers nationally; and address cost increases for school districts (e.g. rising BC Hydro rates).
25. Develop a comprehensive capital plan for educational facilities that takes into account increased maintenance and aging school facility upgrades; and continue the seismic upgrading program.

26. Redesign programming and direct funding to establish and strengthen trades and technology courses in K-12; and provide modest start-up and operational funding as incentives for K-12 technology education programming, similar to the ACE-IT program.
27. Review the increasing demands on school district budgets and ensure that funding is appropriately directed to meet the growing support required for students with special needs.
28. Reinstate the separate provincial library budget line item in the Ministry of Education budget.
29. Provide annual funding of \$2.5 million for community literacy work across BC.
30. Ensure that core funding and operating grants to post-secondary institutions are sufficient for them to fulfill their mandate.
31. Address accounting issues so that post-secondary institutions can access non-taxpayer-supported debt to address critical infrastructure needs.
32. Consider alternate strategies for increasing youth access to post-secondary education that recognize the differences between urban and rural regions of the province.
33. Recommit to the MOU signed with SFU and the province on March 10, 2006 to double the size of SFU Surrey from 2,500 to 5,000 student FTEs by 2015.
34. Ensure that the post-secondary education and training system is adequately funded to meet the rising demand for educated and skilled workers.
35. Continue to support and invest in skills training initiatives and work with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to: enhance access to technical training (e.g. Industry Training Authority and technical schools); explore ways to enhance support of apprentices (e.g. College of the Rockies' Mining Apprenticeship Program); and improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.
36. Support Aboriginal capacity-building through the BC Aboriginal Mine Training Association.
37. Establish a student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion.
38. Review the interest charged on BC student loans to determine the cost and opportunity for a reduction in interest rates.
39. Create a BC graduate fellowship program for MA and PhD students.
40. Continue to support adult basic education programs and make enhancements in this area when finances permit.

## Health

BC's healthcare system, the largest area of budgetary spending, received considerable attention during the five-week consultation period. Health professionals, local governments, business representatives, and community advocates presented ideas on how to enhance healthcare delivery, expand community services, and invest in new programs and infrastructure. Results from the online survey also affirmed the importance of healthcare services to British Columbians. When asked to spend one dollar in new funding across all government programs and services, the most common response was funding for healthcare.

### Healthcare professionals

*"We are committed to contributing positive solutions to help improve the province's healthcare system, broaden access to services, and reduce costs."*  
(Geraldine Vance, British Columbia Pharmacy Association, Written submission)

During the consultations, the Committee learned about the potential role that pharmacists, chiropractors, dentists, and midwives could play in healthcare delivery. For example, associations representing pharmacists and chain drug stores explained how broadened pharmacy-based care and clinical services could result in cost savings and expanded access to care and services. Midwifery representatives similarly stated that their services lead to better outcomes and better use of healthcare dollars. Associations representing chiropractors and dentists suggested ways in which collaboration with government could result in new health-promoting programs. A common theme in submissions was the potential role that these professionals could play in the delivery of cost-effective healthcare solutions.

### Rural healthcare services

*"Funding is needed from BC health authorities to support the development and implementation of rural health care models that meet the individual needs of communities in rural-remote BC. There's no point in having a model if there's not the funding available to implement the changes."* (Ed Staples, Support Our Health Care Society, Merritt public hearing)

BC healthcare services are delivered by five regional health authorities and one provincial authority. The Interior and Northern health authorities serve most of northern and interior BC. Interior Health serves 742,000 residents across 216,000 square kilometers. Northern Health provides services 300,000 people over 600,000 square kilometers.

The Committee heard about the unique healthcare challenges facing rural BC. Presenters in Kitimat, Fort Nelson, Penticton, Terrace, Trail, Williams Lake, and the Peace region noted how more

physicians and trained healthcare providers are needed, along with better services, hospitals, and capital infrastructure. Other presentations suggested ways to improve rural healthcare delivery. A spokesperson for the British Columbia Nurses' Union – West Kootenay Region said that nurses and nurse practitioners could provide more services in small hospitals, thus alleviating the need for doctors. The Princeton-based group, Support Our Health Care Society, specifically requested that health authorities be funded to support the development and implementation of rural healthcare models that meet the individual needs of rural communities.

### Regional healthcare facilities

Presenters at public hearings discussed community-specific healthcare projects. Local governments, chambers of commerce, community groups, and citizen groups talked about projects in planning or underway requiring government assistance. The requests included: reconstruction of emergency rooms and mobile MRI units in Kitimat; redevelopment of the Penticton Regional Hospital; hospital replacement or renewal in Terrace; multi-year funding for capital infrastructure in the Peace region; development of a business plan for the Riverview lands in Coquitlam; healthcare infrastructure in Fort Nelson and Surrey; and other regional projects.

### Community healthcare services

#### Mental health and addictions

*"There's considerable evidence to support good returns on investment when you invest more heavily in the area of population health and wellness."* (Jonathan Morris, Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division, Victoria public hearing)

It has been estimated that approximately one in five British Columbians will experience mental health or addiction problems each year. Early intervention and treatment can minimize the severity of these problems and reduce the associated costs on the province's healthcare, law enforcement, and justice systems.

A considerable number of submissions discussed the impact of mental health and addictions on the province. The BC division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, for example, stressed that early prevention and support are preferable to more expensive acute and institutional care treatments. The association asked for enhanced and transparent reporting of funding of mental health and addictions. Other organizations and community service providers in Kamloops, Vancouver, and Dawson Creek conveyed a similar message – targeted funding is needed for prevention and early treatment of mental health and addictions.

### Palliative care

*"As BC's population ages, the number of people with chronic and/or end-stage illnesses and conditions will increase, and so increases the demand for quality end-of-life care." (Lorraine Gerard, BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, Chilliwack public hearing)*

Community hospices provide end-of-life palliative care that focuses on quality of life and relieving suffering, and deliver counseling and bereavement supports for individuals and families. Hospices rely on the work of dedicated volunteers and leverage funds from a combination of sources, including private donations and allocations from provincial health authorities.

Several community hospice groups, including the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, stated that only 30 percent of people in the province have access to hospice services. Representatives from the Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices and the Castlegar Hospice Society added that access to hospice services is limited and uneven outside the Lower Mainland. Groups emphasized the need for more equitable access to hospice beds across all regions of the province.

### First Link

*"We recommend continued funding for our provincial government's strategic approach to improving dementia care, strengthening the ability of families to provide care, and to increase the capacity of communities to be inclusive of people with dementia and their families." (Jim Mann, Alzheimer Society of British Columbia, Surrey public hearing)*

Government reports that an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 British Columbians live with dementia. Treatment of dementia is provided through First Link, an early intervention and support program offered in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia.

In Surrey, the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia discussed the benefits provided by First Link and the rapid increase in referrals they have had for the program. The society requested funding of \$2.7 million to support continued expansion of First Link to ensure access for all BC communities, as current levels of funding limit the program's operation to only five communities.

### In vitro fertilization

*"Public funding of IVF is a sound investment for BC families and would pay health, social, and fiscal dividends well into our future." (Misty Busch, Infertility Awareness Association of Canada, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

Infertility has been estimated to affect one in six BC families. Infertility can be treated with pharmaceutical and surgical treatments, artificial insemination, and in vitro fertilization (IVF), a

process by which eggs and sperm are harvested and combined outside of the body before being implanted in the uterus.

The Infertility Awareness Association of Canada presented to the Committee in Port Coquitlam. The Committee heard that other jurisdictions that publicly fund IVF treatments have fewer high-risk pregnancies and lower rates of multiple births. The association stated that funding IVF in BC would result in overall savings to the healthcare system.

#### Disease and injury prevention

*"Our proposals have the ability to improve, prevent chronic disease and thereby reduce demand for healthcare services in the long-term."* (Rita Koutsodimos, BC Healthy Living Alliance, Written submission)

Submissions to the Committee proposed ways to promote wellness and reduce disease and injury. The BC Healthy Living Alliance, for example, sent a written submission with several proposals to prevent chronic disease and reduce associated long-term healthcare costs. The alliance requested more aggressive taxation on tobacco, alcohol, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other detrimental influences known to impact public health.

Other submissions stressed the importance of injury prevention and education. In Chilliwack, representatives from the BC Chiropractic Association recommended that government partner with healthcare professionals to develop and fund prevention programs, including education programs in K-12. In Kelowna, BrainTrust Canada Association asked that acquired brain injury be identified as a priority area and that appropriate leadership and resources be assigned to this area.

#### Conclusions

Evidence presented to the Committee clearly indicates that healthcare remains a high priority for British Columbians. Mindful of the need to ensure sustainability of the healthcare system, the Committee makes ten recommendations to improve services while also maximizing efficiencies and long-term savings.

The Committee heard how health professionals such as pharmacists and midwives can be better utilized to improve patient care and achieve overall cost savings. The Committee therefore recommends that further consideration of these proposals is warranted, and work be undertaken with professionals to explore innovative new service delivery models.

Recommendations are also made to address healthcare challenges in rural communities. The Committee endorses efforts to recruit and retain healthcare professionals in underserved rural communities. Continued capital investments are also encouraged to address specific regional healthcare needs.

Several recommendations are intended to enhance community-based healthcare services, such as targeted funds for mental health and addictions. The Committee supports province-wide plans to expand palliative care and Alzheimer treatment to ensure equitable access for all British Columbians. Other recommendations are made for government to fund in vitro fertilization treatments and to work to develop new injury prevention programs, including brain injury.

The Committee welcomes new measures aimed at addressing child obesity and impediments to healthy living. To this end, it is suggested that consideration be given to using taxation to further discourage tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other impediments to healthy living.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Health

41. Work with healthcare professionals to improve current service delivery models and to develop innovative cost-effective health care solutions that allow professionals to use the full scope of their skills.
42. Create more full- and part-time positions in rural areas to retain and attract skilled healthcare workers.
43. Fund BC health authorities to support the development and implementation of rural healthcare models that meet the needs of communities in rural-remote BC.
44. Continue capital investments in critical healthcare infrastructure to address local, regional, and provincial needs.
45. Provide additional and targeted funding for the prevention and early treatment of mental health and addictions.
46. Work with the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association to implement expanded palliative care services throughout the province.
47. Continue funding for the First Link program to ensure that communities across the province have early access to Alzheimer Society programs and services.
48. Adopt and fund a comprehensive in vitro fertilization policy that would provide equitable access for British Columbians, regardless of their income.
49. Partner with healthcare professionals and allocate funding for injury prevention programs, including brain injury.
50. Encourage wellness through a tax regime that discourages tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other impediments to healthy living.

## Community and Social Services

As in previous years, the budget consultations revealed the importance of community and social services to British Columbians. Submissions to the Committee recommended new and continued spending in areas such as arts and culture, and sport development. Requests were made for new spending on services for children and families, and improvements to services provided by community agencies. Other submissions asked for targeted measures to protect BC's most vulnerable, such as enhanced housing programs and measures aimed at reducing poverty.

### Arts and culture

*"The people of British Columbia can be extremely proud of what has been achieved in the artistic sectors and cultural workers, even more so knowing that the growth of this sector will be sustained and supported by the provincial government." (Oz Parsons, ArtsBC, Cranbrook public hearing)*

Provincial funding for the arts is provided through the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants. The BC Arts Council, an independent agency that funds arts and cultural activities, is financed through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. Community Gaming Grants are distributed through the Ministry of Finance's Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch.

The Committee received submissions highlighting the social and economic benefits of arts and culture activities. Umbrella groups such as ArtsBC and the Alliance for Arts and Culture, along with stakeholders and community organizations all stressed the need for stable, predictable financial support for the sector. Requests were made for funding to be increased through both the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants, and for the adoption of a three-year budgeting model that would give recipients the ability to carry over unspent earmarked funds and fundraise without penalty.

The importance of marketing BC arts and cultural products was another prominent theme in submissions. The Committee heard about Creative BC, a recently-created economic development agency dedicated to promotion of BC's creative industries. Several groups, including associations representing BC's television, digital media, music, and publishing industries, called for sufficient resources to enable Creative BC to fulfil its mandate within the broader BC creative futures strategy.

### Sport development

*"What we're asking for is status quo funding within the next three-year budget plan. This kind of consistency makes the system work much more efficiently and is much more predictable." (Chris Wilson, KidSport Tri-Cities; KidSport BC, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

Since 2010, funding for sport development has been provided through the 2010 Sport and Art Legacy, a three-year \$60 million fund established at the time of the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The fund was created to support community engagement in youth sports and the arts, with half of the \$20 million annual amount allocated for sport development. In June 2013, government announced continued funding for the Sport and Arts Legacy, including \$60 million over three years to continue the program.

During the consultations, representatives from ViaSport, Basketball BC, the Canadian Sport Institute, Coaches of Canada, KidSport, Special Olympics British Columbia, and regional PacificSport affiliates emphasized the physical, social, and mental benefits of sport. A common message from the sport community was the need to continue funding at current levels and on a multi-year basis to provide greater stability for the sport sector.

### Services for children and families

*“Our funding for services has not increased since 2008, and we continue to have zero-base budget increases for these services. . . . There’s a widening gap between the demand for services and the actual ability to provide services.”*  
(Margaret Warcup, Kitimat Child Development Centre, Terrace video conference session)

Child and family-serving programs in BC are delivered through ministries such as the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and through accredited agencies funded by the province. Available services include child protection and custody, early child intervention and development, programs for children and youth with special needs, and child care assistance.

Submissions to the Committee from community service providers and advocacy groups such as First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition contained a range of suggestions on how to supplement existing programs. It was requested that the current budget of the Ministry of Children and Family Development be enhanced to eliminate waitlists, reduce social workers’ caseloads, and properly support contracted agencies.

Other submissions requested a boost in funding for specific services, such as age-appropriate supports for children and youth with special needs, age 13 to 19. The Committee also heard a request for funds for group programming for children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, with a focus on socialization, communication, and pre-vocational training.

The topic of affordable child care was raised in other submissions. Calls were made for more accessible and affordable child care for lower-income families. For example, the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC asked for implementation of a universal child care plan and establishment of stable five-year budget for child care.

## Community service agencies

*"If we could revert immediately back to the multi-year agreements and bundle contracts into one overarching agreement, we're going to save some administrative time both in the sector and on the ministry side." (Jason Gordon, British Columbia Association of Child Development and Intervention, Merritt public hearing)*

Funded by government, BC's not-for-profit community service providers deliver a wide range of social programs throughout the province. These accredited agencies are contracted to deliver services such as early child development, services for people with special needs, addictions treatment, transition and shelter, and other services.

In Courtenay, Kitimat, Merritt, and Port Coquitlam, the Committee heard recommendations from community service providers to simplify the administration of contracts, improve service delivery, and achieve overall costs savings for government. The British Columbia Association of Child Development and Intervention, for example, asked that the province move immediately to multi-year contracts with accredited agencies and make it standard practice to bundle multiple contracts into one large agreement when contracting multiple services with one agency.

In Port Coquitlam, SHARE Family and Community Services expressed interest in decreasing the administrative burden associated with multiple contracts, with multiple agencies, in multiple communities. They specifically requested assistance to help develop shared-services models and/or plans to consolidate local operations.

## Housing

*"Please develop a sustainable affordable housing policy. Study after study shows that when people have affordable housing (and support systems where needed) the costs in health and policing are reduced substantially and more of our citizens are able to contribute to the wealth and well-being of the province."*  
(Jane Heyman, Online survey response)

Affordable housing, transition housing, safe homes, and second-stage housing programs provide supports for those in danger of homelessness, women who are abused or assaulted, and Aboriginal people. BC Housing assists citizens in need of affordable and emergency housing and works in partnership with private and not-for-profit groups, provincial health authorities and ministries, and other levels of government.

Submissions to the Committee talked about the necessity of ensuring access to housing options for vulnerable groups. In Dawson Creek, for example, the Northern BC First Nations HIV/AIDS Coalition described the importance of providing culturally-appropriate safe-housing services for First Nations youth. Other submissions called for enhancements to housing options in under-served areas as Terrace and Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. A written submission by the West Coast Women's

Legal Education and Action Fund (West Coast LEAF) recommended that the province commit funding to new affordable housing developments throughout the Lower Mainland and across BC, as well as invest in second-stage transitional housing for women fleeing abuse.

West Coast LEAF also pointed out that the federal program that subsidizes the rent of many co-operative housing residents will be ending over the next several years. The expiry of this assistance, they stated, would put more than 3,000 households at risk of losing their homes. The Committee was asked to ensure that the expiry of federal assistance for co-op housing residents does not result in homelessness or the loss of important affordable housing options.

### Poverty reduction

*"Income inequality has risen in BC over the past decade, even during times of economic prosperity ... Too many British Columbian children are growing up in poverty right now."* (Adrienne Montani, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Vancouver public hearing)

Poverty has been linked to social problems and child vulnerability, lost productivity, and higher costs to the healthcare and justice systems. Currently, social assistance is available for persons through employment and assistance programs, and disability assistance through the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation. BC also has a legislated general minimum wage. The rate since May 2012 has been \$10.25 per hour.

Over the course of the consultations, several organizations and advocacy groups like First Call described how income inequality is a growing issue and how current social assistance rates fall short of actual needs and stated that cost of living increases. Recommendations were made for government to raise social assistance rates and the minimum wage, and to establish higher exemptions that allow recipients to supplement social assistance with employment earnings.

In addition, the Committee heard a strong message from social service providers, advocacy organizations, and citizens calling on government to develop and fund a comprehensive poverty reduction plan. Some of the specific proposals for such a plan included legislated timelines and targets, and the appointment of a minister to oversee implementation.

### Conclusions

Social programs, delivered by both government and community service providers, clearly remain a high priority for British Columbians. A significant number of submissions to the Committee underscored the high value attributed to these areas, and called for sufficient resources to ensure their effectiveness.

To enhance BC's arts and cultural sector, and sport development, the Committee endorses continued funding to community groups, and development of a three-year funding model to provide greater

predictability and stability to recipients. Targeted increases to funding sources including the BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants should be provided when finances permit.

The Committee is responsive to the needs of BC children and families. To enhance available services, it recommends that the budget of the Ministry of Children and Family Development be enhanced to eliminate wait lists, reduce social workers' caseloads, and support community-based agencies. New funding is requested for age-appropriate services for youth with special needs aged 13 to 19. Government is also encouraged to consider opportunities to improve child care affordability and accessibility.

To better assist accredited agencies that deliver community services for BC families, the Committee recommends changes to existing contracting rules. This includes moving to multi-year contracts, bundling multiple contracts into one large agreement, and developing shared services models and/or plans to consolidate local operations.

The Committee believes there is a need for affordable and safe housing, particularly for women and Aboriginal people in transition. Recommendations are made to continue funding for these services, and to work with the federal government to continue assistance for co-op housing as well as explore new affordable housing options in BC.

Furthermore, the Committee asks the province to examine adjusting social assistance rates, earning exemptions, and the minimum wage in order to accommodate rising costs of living. The government is also encouraged to work to reduce poverty by introducing a comprehensive poverty reduction plan.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Community and Social Services

51. Implement a three-year budgeting model for arts funding that includes the ability to carry over unspent earmarked funds and does not penalize successful fundraising.
52. Provide additional funding to the BC Arts Council and for organizations eligible for Community Gaming Grants when finances permit.
53. Continue to fund Creative BC programs to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural exports.
54. Maintain current levels of funding for the sport sector, including the multi-year commitment for sport development.
55. Enhance the Ministry of Children and Family Development budget to eliminate wait lists, reduce social workers' caseloads, and support community-based agencies.
56. Allocate new funding for age-appropriate services for youth with special needs aged 13 to 19.
57. Look at ways to provide more affordable and accessible quality child care.

58. Move to multi-year contracts for family-serving accredited agencies, bundle multiple contracts into one large agreement, and develop shared services models and/or plans to consolidate local operations.
59. Continue the commitment to fund affordable and transition housing services, particularly for women fleeing abuse and young Aboriginal people in northern BC.
60. Work with the federal government to continue the federal assistance program for co-op housing residents; and partner with federal counterparts to provide new affordable housing in BC.
61. Examine current social assistance rates, earning exemptions, and the minimum wage, and consider increases to meet rising costs of living.
62. Introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction plan.

## Environment

A range of environmental issues was brought to the Committee's attention during the consultations. Submissions from community groups, environmental think tanks, and advocacy groups contained suggestions to protect the environment, prepare for severe weather events, and strengthen BC's position as a leading jurisdiction in addressing climate change.

### Invasive species

*"Government has provided funding in the range of \$4 million to \$6 million over the years in invasive species. It basically needs to be doubled to have an effective program." (Gail Wallin, Invasive Species Council of British Columbia, Williams Lake public hearing)*

Invasive species are non-native organisms that can cause economic or environmental harm due to a lack of natural predators and pathogens to keep these organisms in check. Many invasive species exist in BC, such as giant hogweed, European fire ants, and Japanese knotweed. Programs for the control of invasive species in BC are administered by an independent council and by regional committees. Funding is provided through several sources, including annual ministry appropriations.

Several regional invasive species councils and the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia spoke to the Committee about the detrimental impact of invasive species on both residents and businesses. They described the need for partnerships and programming aimed at prevention, monitoring, education, and best practices. A boost in annual operating funding was requested to enable multi-year programming.

### Climate change

*"The province's climate action plan does a good job of identifying a number of risks and opportunities to invest. I think, moving forward, the next step is to make those investments." (Matt Horne, Pembina Institute, Vancouver public hearing)*

Climate change is caused by natural phenomena and human activities that result in the build-up of greenhouse gases. BC is a leading jurisdiction in addressing climate change, and has legislated targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050 (from 2007 levels). BC's Climate Action Secretariat works with ministries and other jurisdictions to develop policies and programs such as LiveSmart BC. Launched in 2011, the program helps BC businesses to improve energy efficiency. In March 2013, government announced that the LiveSmart BC program would be extended to March 31, 2014.

Submissions were received from non-governmental organizations and individuals calling for the development of programs to address climate change. The Pembina Institute and the BC Sustainable

Energy Association, for example, urged the Committee to increase efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to encourage clean energy developments through new climate change policies, LNG taxation, and expansion of the carbon tax. In addition, proposals were made to build on existing climate change programs, including LiveSmart BC.

### Emergency and severe weather preparedness

*"Recent trends highlight the need to increase investments in severe weather adaptation and protection measures. For example, updating BC flood maps is critical to identifying areas at risk of flooding and to helping the government in land use planning." (Serge Corbeil, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

Catastrophic events and severe weather can cause significant environmental damage and economic disruption, as well as pose a serious threat to public safety and health. The Ministry of Environment reports that severe weather-related damage has increased substantially over the last 30 years. It has also been recently reported that BC is not sufficiently prepared for major disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

In Victoria, the Red Cross Society explained the risks presented by major catastrophic events and the need for further investment in disaster preparedness. The risks associated with severe weather were also discussed in Port Coquitlam by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. Committee members heard how deficiencies in current water and sewer infrastructure are often to blame for damage and losses caused by severe weather. The bureau also pointed out that effective planning is hindered by out-of-date flood plain data. Recommendations were made to increase investments in severe weather adaptation and protection measures, particularly with respect to BC flood maps and municipal sewer and storm water infrastructure.

### BC Conservation Partnership

*"This is not a request for the province to directly fund our programs. This is an opportunity for the province to leverage its investment in the environment and help the activities of the BC Conservation Partnership so that they are in line with government objectives." (Brad Arner, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Kamloops public hearing)*

The BC Conservation Partnership is a partnership between multiple levels of government and non-governmental organizations involved in conserving, restoring, and managing land and water resources.

In Kamloops, Ducks Unlimited Canada, a national organization dedicated to wetlands conservation, asked for financial support to re-invigorate the partnership. Committee members heard how the partnership could promote environmentally sustainable land use, on-the-ground best management

practices, and enhanced conservation efforts. It was suggested that an initial provincial contribution could be leveraged into additional funds and put into a trust modelled after the former Trust for Public Lands.

## Conclusions

After due deliberation, the Committee agrees that concerted steps need to be undertaken to address current and potential damage to BC's environmental resources. Accordingly, it is proposed that groups dedicated to the prevention and control of invasive species be adequately funded by the province to carry out their mandate.

In the area of climate change, the Committee encourages additional investment in policies and programs such as LiveSmart BC. It suggests priority be given to policies and programs that have proven to be effective at addressing climate change and meeting the province's targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions.

Evidence presented to the Committee clearly indicates that catastrophic events and severe weather present a significant risk to the BC environment and public safety. To mitigate these risks, government must invest in disaster preparedness, particularly for catastrophic events, and coordinate provincial investments with local governments. The Committee also encourages investment in severe weather adaptation and protection measures, such as BC flood maps and municipal sewer and storm water infrastructure.

As well, the Committee recommends government provide financial support to reinvigorate the BC Conservation Partnership, which has proven effective in leveraging funds from other sources.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Environment

63. Allocate funding for the proactive prevention and management of invasive species.
64. Consider additional investment in policies and programs (e.g. LiveSmart BC) to address the challenge of climate change.
65. Invest in disaster preparedness, particularly for catastrophic events, and coordinate provincial investments with local government.
66. Continue investing in severe weather adaptation and protection measures, such as BC flood maps and municipal sewer and storm water infrastructure.
67. Provide financial support and participation to reinvigorate the BC Conservation Partnership.

## Justice

Justice, policing, and public safety issues were raised in submissions from across the province. Specific proposals were heard for improved access to justice, greater use of alternative justice services, and the adoption of measures to ensure the safety of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

### Access to justice

*"We ask the Committee to consider carefully our strong message that there is an urgent and compelling need to invest in justice now."* (Dean Crawford, Canadian Bar Association, BC Branch, Vancouver public hearing)

The Ministry of Justice, Court Services Branch, provides for the administration of courts and security services in all three levels of BC court: the Provincial Court, the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeal. Legal aid services are available to British Columbians with low income. Delivered through the Legal Services Society, with additional support from the Law Foundation of BC and the Notary Foundation of BC, legal aid services include information, advice, and legal representation.

In Vancouver, the BC branch of the Canadian Bar Association discussed some of the problems around access to justice. Increasing workloads and staffing shortages in the Court Services Branch, the association explained, have resulted in delays for all litigants in the timely resolution of disputes. To address this, the association asked government to commit to long-term, stable funding of the Court Services Branch.

The association also requested an immediate investment in legal aid, and additional funding over the next election cycle, as government's financial position improves. This investment, it was observed, would enable government to maintain commitments made in the Ministry of Justice's *White Paper on Justice Reform*. Other submissions to the Committee similarly stressed that legal aid is vital to ensuring that vulnerable groups have equitable access to justice.

### Missing Women Commission of Inquiry

*"The crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls continues, and it will require concerted efforts from all levels of government, informed by indigenous women and girls and their communities, to address it."* (Kasari Govender, West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, Written submission)

In 2010, the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry was created to examine police investigations into women reported missing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Released in November 2012, the Commission's four-volume final report makes 63 recommendations aimed at enhancing the safety of vulnerable women and improving the initiation and conduct of investigations of missing

persons and suspected multiple homicides. The provincial government has announced that it would take steps to address recommendations and establish an advisory committee to provide guidance.

Concerns over the safety of marginalized and vulnerable women were raised in several written submissions to the Committee. The West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund stated that tens of thousands of BC women live in poverty, are victims of violence, and cannot access the help they need. The group called on the province to implement the recommendations of the inquiry, especially those aimed at improving women's access to the justice system and police protection, as a matter of urgent priority. Other submissions to the Committee called on government to take additional steps to ensure the safety of Aboriginal women, such as immediate establishment of an enhanced public transit system to provide safer travel along Highway 16 (Highway of Tears).

### Alternative justice

*"More resources are needed to ensure that BC citizens have access to other ways of resolving their conflict, including mediation."* (Kari D. Boyle, Mediate BC Society, Vancouver public hearing)

Restorative justice and dispute resolution programs in BC provide alternate avenues for justice, either in conjunction with or as an alternative to the traditional court system. Delivered by local service providers, these programs provide effective means to justice that address victims' needs and hold offenders accountable, while saving money and freeing up court resources.

In Vancouver, Mediate BC discussed the merits of conflict resolution and mediation for the resolution of justice. These programs, they stated, should receive higher priority because they result in significant savings for government, businesses, families, and individuals. Recent changes to the *Family Law Act*, they added, encourage parties to explore alternative dispute resolution prior to making application to court.

The benefits of restorative justice were documented in a written submission from the North Peace Justice Society. The society, which serves Fort St. John and area, similarly described how restorative justice programs deliver highly effective results for both victims and offenders, while reducing policing and legal costs. Despite these benefits, the society stated, sustained funding for restorative justice programs is not available. It was also pointed out that the 2012 Cowper report on the BC justice system reform called for the development of a province-wide plan for diversion, including restorative justice.

## BC Sheriff Service

*"We should expand the responsibility of BC deputy sheriffs. Duties such as traffic and warrant delivery would save money, increase revenues and keep our roads safer." (Darryl Walker, BC Government and Service Employees Union, Port Coquitlam public hearing)*

A division within the Court Services Branch, the BC Sheriff Service provides court security and escort services for all participants in the judicial system. Training and certification for sheriffs is provided through the Justice Institute of BC.

In its submission to the Committee, the BC Government and Service Employees Union suggested that sheriffs could be assigned additional duties to utilize the full scope of their skills, such as traffic and warrant delivery. Doing this, they stated, would improve road safety, free up other police forces, alleviate delays in courts, and result in overall cost savings to government. The union pointed out that Alberta sheriffs handle traffic duties alongside the RCMP, and this arrangement generated \$111 million in revenue in 2009-2010 alone.

## Conclusions

Committee members agree that British Columbians must have timely and equitable access to justice, and that this requires long-term, stable funding for the Court Services Branch. The Committee also endorses a plan to incrementally increase the budget for legal aid to ensure that those in most need have equitable access to justice. In addition, government is encouraged to follow through on its commitment to implement the recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, with specific emphasis given to improving women's access to the justice system and police protection.

The Committee acknowledges the important work provided by local service providers, particularly those engaged in the delivery of restorative justice and mediation. These services have been proven to deliver effective results, as well as considerable cost savings to the system as a whole. The Committee therefore recommends that government work to establish a province-wide restorative justice program, as well as allocate sufficient funding to the mediation, arbitration, and other out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms emphasized in the new *Family Law Act*.

Lastly, the Committee is also convinced that further efficiencies can be found within the justice system. To this end, the Committee encourages government to work with local governments to explore ways to expand the responsibilities of BC Sheriffs to utilize the full scope of their training. Similar measures elsewhere in Canada have been proven effective in reducing demands on other police services and the justice system as a whole.

## Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

### Justice

68. Commit to long-term and stable funding of the Court Services Branch.
69. Incrementally increase legal aid funding.
70. Implement recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, with specific emphasis on those aimed at improving women's access to the justice system and police protection.
71. Establish a province-wide restorative justice program.
72. Allocate sufficient funding for mediation, arbitration, and other out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms emphasized in the new *Family Law Act*.
73. Work with local governments to explore ways to utilize the full scope of the BC Sheriff Service (e.g. for traffic-related services and warrant delivery).

## Summary of Recommendations

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommends to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia that the provincial government:

### Fiscal Policy

1. Remain committed to balancing Budget 2014.
2. Commit to ongoing balanced budgets and a comprehensive debt management plan.
3. Undertake an open and transparent public discussion on how to improve the provincial sales tax regime to increase the productivity of industry and business.
4. Consider restoring the PST exemption for silviculture-related services.
5. Ensure the equitable application of the carbon tax across all sectors, including examination of the impact of the tax on cement and agriculture.
6. Continue to maintain a competitive general corporate income tax rate.
7. Work with the film industry on issues that impact them (e.g. exchange rates and the Digital Animation and Visual Effects tax credit) to ensure that BC remains a competitive jurisdiction.
8. Maintain tax credits for the mining industry and mineral exploration and collaborate with municipal and federal counterparts to encourage policies that enhance BC's competitive edge.
9. Ensure that provincial tax legislation maintains the tax exemptions for BC credit unions.
10. Review the impact of the Property Transfer Tax on first-time homebuyers.

### Natural Resources

11. Consider a strategic, cumulative environmental assessment of LNG projects in northwest BC and the creation of a common energy corridor for successful projects.
12. Develop a definitive tax strategy that clarifies the proposed LNG gas export tax, in addition to existing royalties and taxes, and provides incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
13. Commit a portion of future revenues from LNG and other natural resources to be saved for the benefit of future generations.
14. Work with northern and rural communities to address growth issues relating to industrial development, including timely provision of funds for community infrastructure.
15. Allocate resources for the continuing negotiation and implementation of revenue-sharing (economic and community development agreements), strategic engagement agreements, and treaties with First Nations.
16. Ensure key ministries have the resources they need to address permitting and First Nations consultation requirements for mining projects in a timely manner, and work to achieve a 60-day turnaround for notice of work permit applications.

17. Maintain funding for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to enable timely processing of all permits necessary to ensure access to fibre.
18. Expand First Nations access to forestry tenures, including woodlands licences and revenue-sharing agreements, to allow First Nations to be a significant part of the forestry sector.
19. Assist cattle ranchers with costs to hire professional engineers to inspect water storage dams to ensure safety and proper function.
20. Consider allowing tenure holders to remove dead timber within a one-tree length of range development, especially fences.
21. Provide multi-year funding for the Buy Local agriculture program and continue to support the development of farmers' markets.
22. Continue enhancing transportation infrastructure through strategic investments in gateway development, highway improvements, and public transit.
23. Strengthen oversight and accountability of BC Hydro, including enhancing the transparency and responsible use of deferral accounts.

#### Education

24. Provide sufficient funding for the K-12 system to enable BC students to become top performers nationally; and address cost increases for school districts (e.g. rising BC Hydro rates).
25. Develop a comprehensive capital plan for educational facilities that takes into account increased maintenance and aging school facility upgrades; and continue the seismic upgrading program.
26. Redesign programming and direct funding to establish and strengthen trades and technology courses in K-12; and provide modest start-up and operational funding as incentives for K-12 technology education programming, similar to the ACE-IT program.
27. Review the increasing demands on school district budgets and ensure that funding is appropriately directed to meet the growing support required for students with special needs.
28. Reinstate the separate provincial library budget line item in the Ministry of Education budget.
29. Provide annual funding of \$2.5 million for community literacy work across BC.
30. Ensure that core funding and operating grants to post-secondary institutions are sufficient for them to fulfill their mandate.
31. Address accounting issues so that post-secondary institutions can access non-taxpayer-supported debt to address critical infrastructure needs.
32. Consider alternate strategies for increasing youth access to post-secondary education that recognize the differences between urban and rural regions of the province.
33. Recommit to the MOU signed with SFU and the province on March 10, 2006 to double the size of SFU Surrey from 2,500 to 5,000 student FTEs by 2015.
34. Ensure that the post-secondary education and training system is adequately funded to meet the rising demand for educated and skilled workers.

35. Continue to support and invest in skills training initiatives and work with industry, educational institutions, and First Nations to: enhance access to technical training (e.g. Industry Training Authority and technical schools); explore ways to enhance support of apprentices (e.g. College of the Rockies' Mining Apprenticeship Program); and improve the certification process for new Canadians and foreign tradespeople.
36. Support Aboriginal capacity-building through the BC Aboriginal Mine Training Association.
37. Establish a student grant program that addresses student needs and provides incentives for completion.
38. Review the interest charged on BC student loans to determine the cost and opportunity for a reduction in interest rates.
39. Create a BC graduate fellowship program for MA and PhD students.
40. Continue to support adult basic education programs and make enhancements in this area when finances permit.

#### Health

41. Work with healthcare professionals to improve current service delivery models and to develop innovative cost-effective health care solutions that allow professionals to use the full scope of their skills.
42. Create more full- and part-time positions in rural areas to retain and attract skilled healthcare workers.
43. Fund BC health authorities to support the development and implementation of rural healthcare models that meet the needs of communities in rural-remote BC.
44. Continue capital investments in critical healthcare infrastructure to address local, regional, and provincial needs.
45. Provide additional and targeted funding for the prevention and early treatment of mental health and addictions.
46. Work with the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association to implement expanded palliative care services throughout the province.
47. Continue funding for the First Link program to ensure that communities across the province have early access to Alzheimer Society programs and services.
48. Adopt and fund a comprehensive in vitro fertilization policy that would provide equitable access for British Columbians, regardless of their income.
49. Partner with healthcare professionals and allocate funding for injury prevention programs, including brain injury.
50. Encourage wellness through a tax regime that discourages tobacco use, sugar-sweetened beverages, and other impediments to healthy living.

### Community and Social Services

51. Implement a three-year budgeting model for arts funding that includes the ability to carry over unspent earmarked funds and does not penalize successful fundraising.
52. Provide additional funding to the BC Arts Council and for organizations eligible for Community Gaming Grants when finances permit.
53. Continue to fund Creative BC programs to support the creation, production, and marketing of BC's cultural exports.
54. Maintain current levels of funding for the sport sector, including the multi-year commitment for sport development.
55. Enhance the Ministry of Children and Family Development budget to eliminate wait lists, reduce social workers' caseloads, and support community-based agencies.
56. Allocate new funding for age-appropriate services for youth with special needs aged 13 to 19.
57. Look at ways to provide more affordable and accessible quality child care.
58. Move to multi-year contracts for family-serving accredited agencies, bundle multiple contracts into one large agreement, and develop shared services models and/or plans to consolidate local operations.
59. Continue the commitment to fund affordable and transition housing services, particularly for women fleeing abuse and young Aboriginal people in northern BC.
60. Work with the federal government to continue the federal assistance program for co-op housing residents; and partner with federal counterparts to provide new affordable housing in BC.
61. Examine current social assistance rates, earning exemptions, and the minimum wage, and consider increases to meet rising costs of living.
62. Introduce a comprehensive poverty reduction plan.

### Environment

63. Allocate funding for the proactive prevention and management of invasive species.
64. Consider additional investment in policies and programs (e.g. LiveSmart BC) to address the challenge of climate change.
65. Invest in disaster preparedness, particularly for catastrophic events, and coordinate provincial investments with local government.
66. Continue investing in severe weather adaptation and protection measures, such as BC flood maps and municipal sewer and storm water infrastructure.
67. Provide financial support and participation to reinvigorate the BC Conservation Partnership.

### Justice

68. Commit to long-term and stable funding of the Court Services Branch.
69. Incrementally increase legal aid funding.

70. Implement recommendations of the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, with specific emphasis on those aimed at improving women's access to the justice system and police protection.
71. Establish a province-wide restorative justice program.
72. Allocate sufficient funding for mediation, arbitration, and other out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms emphasized in the new *Family Law Act*.
73. Work with local governments to explore ways to utilize the full scope of the BC Sheriff Service (e.g. for traffic-related services and warrant delivery).

## Appendix A: Public Hearing Witnesses

Abbotsford Community Services, Nadine Power, Rod Santiago, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Andy Ackerman, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Alliance for Arts and Culture, Rob Gloor, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver, Tanner Bokor, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Alzheimer Society of British Columbia, Jim Mann, Rebecca Morris, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Erik Anderson, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, John Leech, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

ArtsBC, Christine Kashuba, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

ArtsBC, Oz Parsons, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

ArtsBC; Gabriola Arts Council, Michelle Benjamin, Kathy Ramsey, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia, Gavin Dirom, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Association for Reformed Political Action Canada, Mark Penninga, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

B.C. Citizens for Green Energy, David Field, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union, Darryl Walker, Megan Scott, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

B.C. Wildlife Federation, Alan Martin, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Basketball BC, Lawrie Johns, Allison McNeill, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Jon Bell, Elizabeth Quinn, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

BC Colleges, Jim Reed, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

BC Food Systems Network, Linda Geggie, Kathleen Gibson, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

BC Food Systems Network; Food Secure Canada, Abra Brynne, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

BC Green Party, Adam Olsen, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

BC Hospice Palliative Care Association, Lorraine Gerard, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

BC Touring Council, Joanna Maratta, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Chris Blair, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

"Blue Ribbon" North Shore, Squamish-Whistler Corridor Community Group, Brent Calvert, Myles Galvin, Chris Pettingill, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Board of Education, School District No. 38 (Richmond), Donna Sargent, Mark De Mello, Monica Palmer, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Board of Education, School District No. 60 (Peace River North), Janet Thompson, Doug Boyd, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Board of Education, School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) - After School Sports and Arts Initiative, Devon McBride, Sherry Stade, Deandra Tousignant, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Board Voice Society of BC, Dr. Carol Matusicky, Doug Heyman, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

BrainTrust Canada Association, Magda Kapp, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

British Columbia Association of Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon, 25-Sep-13 (Merritt)

British Columbia Cattlemen's Association, David Haywood-Farmer, Kevin Boon, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, John Winter, Jon Garson, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

British Columbia Common Ground Alliance, M.J. Whitemarsh, Steve Ricketts, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

British Columbia Construction Association, Manley McLachlan, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

British Columbia Dental Association, Dr. David Ciriani, Jocelyn Johnston, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, Jeet Dukhia, Glen Lucas, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

British Columbia Library Trustees Association, Lauren Wolf, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

British Columbia Museums Association, Peter Ord, John Grimes, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

British Columbia Nurses' Union - West Kootenay Region, Jessie Renzie, Lorne Burkart, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

British Columbia Real Estate Association, Norma Miller, James McCaughan, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

British Columbia School Trustees Association, Teresa Rezansoff, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Jim Iker, Margaret White, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Greg Brown, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Camosun College, Peter Lockie, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Camosun College Student Society, Simka Marshall, Madeline Keller-MacLeod, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch, Dean Crawford, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Mike Klassen, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Canadian Federation of Students, British Columbia, Katie Marocchi, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Canadian Mental Health Association, British Columbia Division, Beverley Gutray, Jonathan Morris, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Canadian Red Cross Society, Kimberley Nemrava, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Canadian Sport Institute, Wendy Pattenden, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Canadian Sport Institute, Cheyla Reader, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Jordan Bateman, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Cariboo Cattlemen's Association, Cuyler Huffman, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee, Cathy Mumford, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Cariboo Regional District, Al Richmond, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Bill Carruthers, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Castlegar Hospice Society, Suzanne Lehbauer, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Cement Association of Canada, Michael McSweeney, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Central 1 Credit Union, Wendy King, Helmut Pastrick, Kelly Harris, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Central Interior Logging Association, MaryAnne Arcand, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Central Okanagan Food Policy Council, Carol Kergan, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Chevron Canada, David Schick, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Darrell Roze, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Gemmell, Kirk Dzaman, Fieny van den Boom, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Chilliwack Learning Community Society, Debbie Denault, Maggie Saunders, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Christian Heritage Party of British Columbia, Rod Taylor, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

City of Cranbrook, Mayor Wayne Stetski, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

City of Fernie, Councillor Dan McSkimming, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

City of Fort St. John, Mayor Lori Ackerman, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

City of Penticton, Mayor Gary Litke, Councillor Helena Konanz, Councillor Judy Sentes, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

City of Prince Rupert, Corinne Bomben, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

City of Terrace, Councillor Brian Downie, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Clean Energy BC, Paul Kariya, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Coaches of Canada, Peter Lawless, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, Sharon Gregson, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Coastal Invasive Species Committee, Rachelle McElroy, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Walt Cobb, Bill McQuarrie, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

College of Chiropractors of BC; BC Chiropractic Association, Dr. Jay Robinson, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

College of New Caledonia, Bob Murray, Bryn Kulmatycki, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

College of New Caledonia Students' Union, Arnold Yellowman, Robert Chavarie, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

College of the Rockies, David Walls, Dianne Teslak, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Leslie Molnar, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Betty Knight, Katherine Hough, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, Desneiges Profili, Alana Murdoch, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, Helen Furgale, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Comox Valley Child Development Association, Diane Daigle, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Comox Valley Life Long Learning Association; Hornby Island Educational Society, Martin Petter, Danielle Hoogland, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Concerned Citizens for Addiction Care, Peggy Davenport, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, Dr. Richard Kool, Rob Clift, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Cranbrook and District Chamber of Commerce, Dave Butler, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Created in BC, Margaret Reynolds, Bob D'Eith, Liz Shorten, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Peter Davidson, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Dawson Creek and District Chamber of Commerce, Jeremy Earl, Kathleen Connolly, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Dawson Creek Literacy Now, Michelle Mobley, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Decoda Literacy Solutions, Brenda Le Clair, Leona Gadsby, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Mavis DeGirolamo, Jill Leslie, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

District of Chetwynd, Mayor Merlin Nichols, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Douglas Students' Union, Tracey Ho, Madison Paradis-Woodman, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, James Stewart, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Ducks Unlimited Canada, Brad Arner, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Emily Carr Students' Union, Darren Devlin, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia, David Rourke, Jan Mastromatteo, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Cindy Oliver, Dr. George Davison, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani, Cheryl Mixon, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Ken Forest, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce, Bev Vandersteen, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Judy Fraser, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

Brian Fry, Donald Stevens, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Ian Gartshore, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Genome British Columbia, Alan Winter, Suzanne Gill, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Geoscience BC, Carlos Salas, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Paul Gevatkoff, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Dr. Mychael Gleeson, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Arthur Hadland, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Arzeena Hamir, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Dana Hibbard, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Imperial Tobacco Canada Ltd., John Fitzgerald, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Infertility Awareness Association of Canada, Misty Busch, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Initiatives Prince George, Heather Oland, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, Richard Rees, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Insurance Bureau of Canada, Serge Corbeil, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Invasive Species Council of BC, Gail Wallin, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver; Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council, Jennifer Grenz, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Island Coastal Economic Trust, Mayor Phil Kent, Linc Robert, Dallas Smith, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Kamloops Foundation, Nancy Plett, George Campbell, Russ Chambers, Kathy Humphreys, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Kel Kelly, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, David Bond, Caroline Grover, Ian Stuart, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Kelowna Joint Water Committee; City of Kelowna, Bob Harasko, Colin Basran, Gordon Evans, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Kersley Farmers Institute, Paul Zeeger, Lynda Atkinson, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

KidSport Tri-Cities; KidSport BC, Chris Wilson, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Kitimat Child Development Centre, Margaret Warcup, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Kitimat Health Advocacy Group, Rob Goffinet, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Wes Kmet, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Kootenay Columbia Teachers' Union, Andy Davidoff, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Kwantlen Faculty Association, Gillian Dearle, Bob Davis, Terri Van Steinburg, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Langara College, Brad O'Hara, Ian Humphreys, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Literacy in Kamloops, Fiona Clare, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Literacy Quesnel Society, Rebecca Beuschel, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Karin Litzke, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Rosemary McVeeters, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Meadowbrook Community Association, Bob Johnstone, Sandra Loewen, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Mediate BC Society, Kari D. Boyle, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Midwives Association of British Columbia, Kelly Hayes, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Mary Miller, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Mining Association of British Columbia, David Ewing, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Matthew Monkman, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Peter Leitch, Paul Klassen, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Marco Antonio Murillo, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Steve Arnett, Ashley Frerichs, Mike Hunter, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Anne Nedelec, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

New Car Dealers Association of BC, Blair Qualey, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

New Westminster Teachers' Union, Grant Osborne, Pat Dyer, Frances Hernandorena, Yves Laforest, Bruce McCloy, Dragana Sacco, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Peter Nix, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

North Coast Literacy Now, Elizabeth Wilson, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

North Island College, John Bowman, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

North Island College Faculty Association, Shirley Ackland, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

North Island Students' Union, Jacelyn Lobay, James Bowen, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

North Okanagan Child, Youth and Family Committee, Jan Shumay, Gay Jewitt, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Northern BC First Nations HIV/AIDS Coalition; Saulteau First Nations, Emma Palmantier, Tammy Watson, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Northern Lights College, Brent Deinstadt, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Northwest Community College, Dr. Denise Henning, Debbie Stava, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

Northwest Community College Students' Union, Mikael Jensen, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

Northwest Institute for Bioregional Research, Richard Overstall, Nadia Nowak, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Northwest Invasive Plant Council, Andrea Eastham, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Lisa Scott, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Okanagan College, Tom Styffe, Jim Hamilton, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Okanagan College Faculty Association, Tim Walters, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Okanagan College Students' Union, Jingwei Wu, Brianne Berchowitz, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board, Christopher Miller, Janice Myers, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Old Meadows Organic Farm/Okanagan Valley Farmland Protection Fund, Jeff Ricketts, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres (PAARC), Mariane Bourcheix-Laporte, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Pacific Development Pathways Ltd., Clint Hames, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

PacificSport Interior BC, Carolynn Boomer, Ron McColl, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

PacificSport Northern BC, Dr. Anne Pousette, John Hopson, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

PacificSport Okanagan, Jim Gabriel, Doug Nicholas, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

PacificSport Vancouver Island, Drew Cooper, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Kevin Paterson, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Ferrol Pavlis, Rick Pavlis, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Peace River Regional District, Karen Goodings, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Peace River South Teachers' Association, Lorraine Mackay, 07-Oct-13 (Dawson Creek)

Pembina Institute, Matt Horne, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce, Andre Martin, Jason Cox, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Lynn Perrin, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Phoenix Centre - Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services, Sian Lewis, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Judy Poole, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Derek Dougherty, Cindi Pohl, Christic Ray, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Prince George Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Helen Domshy, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Prince George Public Library, Dr. Anne George, Wendy De Marsh, Janet Marren, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Prince Rupert Port Authority, Ken Veldman, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

Private Forest Landowners Association, Rod Bealing, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria, Ivan Habel, Peter Sandmark, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut, Jim Woolsey, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Brad Hope, 25-Sep-13 (Merritt)

Nathan Reiter, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Resources North Association, Melanik Karjala, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

Rick Hansen Foundation; Rick Hansen Institute, Colin Ewart, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Martin Sadd, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Save Our Northern Seniors Society, Jean Leahy, Jim Collins, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Selkirk College, Dr. Neil Coburn, Gary Leier, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

Selkirk College Students' Union, Natalia Schwarz, Zachary Crispin, 01-Oct-13 (Trail)

SHARE Family and Community Services, Martin Wyant, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Simon Fraser Student Society; Graduate Student Society at Simon Fraser University, Julia Lane, Chardaye Buccert, 20-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

Simon Fraser University, Andrew Petter, Joanne Curry, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District, Des Nobels, 09-Oct-13 (Prince Rupert)

SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, Greg Knox, 16-Oct-13 (Victoria)

Smithers Community Services Association, Jo-Anne Nugent, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Southern Interior Weed Management Committee, Jo-Ann Fox, 25-Sep-13 (Merritt)

Special Olympics BC, Dan Howe, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Spirits Canada, Jan Westcott, C.J. Helie, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College, Nimmi Takkar, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Summerland Chamber of Economic Development and Tourism, Connie Denesiuk, Christine Petkau, 01-Oct-13 (Penticton)

Sunrise Village Society, Casey Van Staalduin, Ken Gillis, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Support Our Health Care Society, Ed Staples, 25-Sep-13 (Merritt)

Surrey Board of Trade, Anita Huberman, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Robin Tavender, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

The Research Universities' Council of BC, Dr. Allan Cahoon, Jamie Cassels, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

The WaterWealth Project, Natalie Jones, Ian Stephen, 24-Sep-13 (Chilliwack)

Noreen Thielen, 30-Sep-13 (Cranbrook)

Thompson Rivers University, Dr. Alan Shaver, Dr. Paul Dagg, Brian Ross, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Jason Brown, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, Leif Douglass, Alex McLellan, 25-Sep-13 (Kamloops)

Tolko Industries Ltd., Tom Hoffman, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Tourism Kelowna, Brad Sieben, Nancy Cameron, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Dennis Marsden, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

University of British Columbia, Pascal Spothelfer, 2Pierre Oullet, 0-Sep-13 (Vancouver)

University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, Deborah Buszard, Michael Shakespeare, 02-Oct-13 (Kelowna)

University of Northern British Columbia, Dr. George Iwama, Jessie King, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)

University of Victoria Students' Society, Rachel Barr, Nadia Hamdon, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Serge Vaillancourt, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Vancouver Board of Trade, Iain Black, Rob MacKay, Lori Mathison, 23-Sep-13 (Surrey)

Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices; Nanaimo Community Hospice Society, Wendy Pratt, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

Vancouver Island University Students' Union, Kristen Brooker, Patrick Barbosa, 02-Oct-13 (Nanaimo)

ViaSport British Columbia, Cathy Priestner Allinger, 24-Sep-13 (Port Coquitlam)

Victoria Real Estate Board, Shelley Mann, David Corey, 26-Sep-13 (Victoria)

Wachiay Friendship Centre, Michael Colclough, Roger Kishi, 03-Oct-13 (Courtenay)

Graeme Wallis, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

Wellness in Northern BC Task Force, Dr. Bert Kelly, Dr.  
Anne Pousette, 08-Oct-13 (Prince George)  
Josette Wier, 09-Oct-13 (Smithers)

Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce, Jason  
Ryll, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)  
Gary Young, 08-Oct-13 (Williams Lake)

## Appendix B: Written Submissions

ADAV Society of BC, Anne Birthistle	Boundary Invasive Species Society, Bill Baird	Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, Diana French
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Wendy Thomson	Len Box	Barry Cavens
Kim Aldridge	Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada - Pacific Region, Carrie Wagner-Miller	Central Okanagan Food Policy Council, Alysha Punnett
Noel Apunen Washburn	Lloyd Brinson	Central Okanagan Partners for Literacy, Laura Smith
Arts Health Network Canada - BC, Lori Baxter	British Columbia Arts Council, Stanley Hamilton	Certified Organic Associations of BC, Jen Gamble
ArtsBC, Sheryl McGraw	British Columbia Choral Federation, David Kendall Stewart	Chartered Professional Accountants of BC, Edward Downing
Robert Ashwell	British Columbia Pharmacy Association, Coco Lefoka	Anne Clayton
Association for the Protection of Rural Metchosin, Frank Mitchell	British Columbia Wharf Operators' Association, R.V. Wilds	Jane Covernton
Tunya Audain	Burnaby Board of Trade, Paul Holden	Patricia Dinsley
Richard Balfour	Business Council of British Columbia, Jock Finlayson	District of North Saanich, Curt Kingsley
Sharon Barker	Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores, Juan Quinonez	Terry Dorsey
M. Olive Bassett	Canadian Bankers Association, Timothy Downing	Peter Duffey
BC Association for Charitable Gaming, David Sheach	Canadian Federation of the Blind, May Ellen Gabias	Jan Dupuis
BC Association of Institutes and Universities, Ruth Wittenberg	Canadian Federation of University Women BC Council, Jeannette Mergens	Edward Dyson
BC Games Society, Cathy Allinger	Canadian Federation of University Women, Richmond, Sue Burford	Barbara Ebell
BC Healthy Living Alliance, Rita Koutsodimos	Canadian Federation of University Women, South Delta Club, Paula McLaughlin	Elektra Women's Choir, Morna Edmundson
BC Library Association, Annette DeFaveri	Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC, Neil Moody	Dianne Evans
BC Refederation Party, N. E. (Liz) Galenzoski	Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc., Noeline Simon	Janet Fairbanks
BC Sustainable Energy Association, Tom Hackney	Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division, Jonathan Morris	Irfane Fancy
Cameron Bell	Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association, Mark von Schellwitz	Ferry Advisory Committee Chairs, Jo Mrozewski
Dolores Bell	Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association, Pat Corbett	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, Jennifer Hoffman
Jeremy Berkman		From Grief To Action, Anita Haidar
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley, David Sheach		Kevin M. Fry
Board of Education, School District No. 28 (Quesnel), Caroline Mitchell		Future of Food in The Kootenays, Andre Piver
Board of Education, School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert), Tina Last		Garden City Conservation Society, Jim Wright
Board of Education, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Silas White		Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver, Colum Connolly
Steven D. Borley		Janet Gray
		Steve Gray
		Ben Greene
		Bernadette Greene
		Larry Hall

Niels Holbek	Nelson Fine Arts Centre Society	Jamai Schile
Hildegard Horie	(DBA Oxygen Art Centre), Miriam	Peter Scurr
Vicky Husband	Needoba	Keith Sketchley
Import Vintners & Spirits	Gail Neufeld	Ione Smith
Association, Richard Loewen	New Westminster District Parent	Marilyn Somers
Independent Media Arts Alliance, BC	Advisory Council, Beth Ott	Carol Southgate
members, Emma Hendrix	North Kootenay Lake Arts &	Curtis Spring
International Forest Products Limited;	Heritage Council, David K. Stewart	Maria Squance
Tolko Industries Limited; West	North Peace Justice Society, Michelle	Sunshine Coast Regional District,
Fraser Timber Company Limited;	LaBoucane	Garry Nohr
and Canfor Corporation, Randy	ORCA Children's Advocacy Centre	Helen Tan
Johnstone	Society, Chris Holt	Teck Resources Limited, Marcia
Islands Trust, Sheila Malcolmson	Karl Osmers	Smith
Kenneth Johnston	Pacific Association of Artist Run	Terrace Public Library, Douglas
Myna Lee Johnstone	Centres, Mariane Bourcheix-	Sandwell
Don Jones	Laporte	Noreen Thielen
Elizabeth Kaller	Pacific Community Resources	Cheryl Thomas
Jason Keen	Society; YWCA Metro Vancouver;	Olga Tkatcheva
Eva Kerr	Frog Hollow Neighbourhood	UBC Chan Centre for the Performing
Peter Kerr	House, Steven Atkinson	Arts, Joyce Hinton
Barbara Knight	Robert M. Patterson	Urban Development Institute Pacific
Dr Robert Langford	Pender Harbour Music Society, Marg	Region, Anne McMullin
Lasqueti Island Local Trust	Penney	Vancouver Board of Education, Patti
Committee, David Graham	Laura Pingle	Bacchus
Buddy Lee	Graeme Pole	Vancouver Public Library Board,
Lillooet Regional Invasive Species	Chris Pollon	Catherine Evans
Association, Jacque Rasmussen	Dave Poon	Vantreight Farms, Ian Vantreight
Ron Manning	Prince Rupert Library, Joc Zelwietro	Martin Wale
Richard Mark	Linda Prowse	S. Watkins
Linda Martens	R.C. Purdy Chocolates Ltd., Duncan	Cathryn Wellner
Bea McKenzie	Johnston	West Coast Women's Legal
Ken McLennan	Ellen Rainwalker	Education and Action Fund, Kasari
Shannon McPhail	Angie Rashbrook	Govender
Beat Mertz	Rental Housing Council, Amy	Western Convenience Stores
Jo Middleton	Spencer	Association, Lindsay Doyle
Barry Minaker	Sahari Rincc	Deirdre Whalen
Rod Moorcroft	Terry Robinson	Gerry Wilkie
Steve Mullins	Laurie Rockwell	George Winkelhorst
Karen Muntcan	Dianne Rose	Kathie Woodley
Anne Murray	Nathaniel Sabanski	Jennifer Zickerman
Nanaimo Brain Injury Society, Mark	Salt Spring Island Agricultural	
Busby	Alliance, Anne Macey	

## Appendix C: Online Survey Respondents

Art Abrahams	Katherin Charbonneau	Anita Galanopoulos	Susan Johnston
Jason Adair	City of Merritt, Susan	Ron Ganczar	Barbara Johnstone
Eve Adams	Roline	Sebastien Garon	Elizabeth Kaller
Louise Alarie	City of Merritt, Larry	Chris George	Helen Kelsey
Betina Ali	Plotnikoff	Pat Gibbs	Eva Kerr
Paul Allinger	Patricia E. Clark	Michael Gintowt	Keys: Housing and Health
Gordon Almond	Anne Clayton	Dianne Goldberg	Solutions, Shayne
Carla Ambrosini	Tanya Clift	Janet Gray	Williams
Janet Anderson	Community of Creston	Ellen Gross	Peter Klaver
Brian Arkell	Arts Council, Audrey	Diana Guinn	Susan Knight
Allisa Arnold	Orosz	Lex Haagen	Mykol Knighton
Erin Arnold	Beth Davies	Robert Hacking	Janice Koch
Andrea Arnot	Annette Defaveri	Wren Handman	Jason Kowal
Stacy Ashton	Jessica Dennis	Nevin Harper	Edward Kroc
Sue Askew	Mike Depaoli	Stacey Harper	Genevieve Labrie
Jill Auchinachie	Rae-Lynne Dicks	Wendy Harris	Darrin Lagimodiere
Christopher Avis	Natalie Dickson	Silvana Harwood	Arlene Laing
Chris Ayles	Eric Diller	Kimberly Hauser	Cayce Lavolette
Sharon Bard	Jack Doan	Andrew Hawkes	Tysen Leblond
Brenton Barker	Pat Dobbs	Marie Hay	Larry Lee
Laura Barker	James Doran	Brigitte Hayes	Maxine Leichter
Bert Bastiaansen	Patrick Dore	Barry Hemenway	Andrea Lemire
Billie Belcher	Downtown Service	Karen Henry	Linda Leone
Jeremy Berkman	Providers, Kathy Stinson	Jane Heyman	Stephanie Licuwen
Jean Birch	Marilyn Drews	Caitlin Hicks	Bob Little
Trevor Blackall	Alan Duncan	James Hill	Wayne Llewellyn
Erika Blume	Barbara Ebell	Shannon Hobson	Trevor Loke
Brenda Bouchette	Roland Ebneter	Darra Hofman	Maureen Lomax
Gioia Breda	Gabriel Epstein	Jessica Holden	Shih En Lu
Richard Bredl	Kyla Epstein	Amber Holman	Lush Valley Food Action
Carrollin Brooks	Stephen Fan	Jarrett Holst	Society, Cynthia Fitton
Barbara Brown	Brett Favaro	Collin Honeyman	Jordan Magtoto
Cailllin Buck	Fernie & District Arts	Susan Hooper	Ken Marr
Pat Bulmer	Council, Courtney Baker	Robin Hsiung	Rosemary Mason
Eric Burkle	David Fischer	Margaret Hughes	Erik Mast
Michael Cade	Blair Fisher	Duncan Hume	David Mayo
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Marcus	Dorance Fleming	Andrina Iliffe	Madison McArthur
Ewert-Johns	Brian Fraser	Katrine Ireland	Robin McDaniel
Joyce Cardinal	Heather Frayne	Rachel Kiyo Iwaasa	Delta McDonnell
Catherine Carter	Margaret Friesen	Sarah James	Sheila McDonnell
Chris Carter	From Grief to Action, Stan	Phil Jenkinson	Glenys McFarlane
Glynis Cawdell	Fraser	Neal Jennings	Toni McKilligan
	Beau Gabiniewicz	Murray Johnson	Eldon McLeod

Gary Mcmillan	Tim Pincin	Matthew Smillie	Unifiller Systems Inc.,
Meghan Mcmillen	Kelly Pitman	M. Smith	Mark Soares
Linda McMullan	John Plaus	Derek St.Ongc	Joyce Van De Vegt
Anne Mcnamee	Marcel Potter	Tina Steppler	Frank Van Gisbergen
Charles Menzies	Jennifer Pride	Glen Stewart	Ben Verkerk
Jeannette Mergens	Valerie Prodanuk	Masako Stillwell	Tony Vernon
Hans Meyer	James Prothero	Peter Stillwell	Christine Vickers
Jocelyn Morlock	Linda Prowse	Linda Studley	Victoria Cool Aid Society,
Kim Morton	Julia Rossi	Sundrops Centre For Child	Kathy Stinson
Robert Muir	Susan Rankin	Development, Patti	Ingrid Voigt
Gail Muise	Graham Reid	Patstone	Catherine Wankiewicz
Jennifer Nordahl	Janine Reid	Derrick Surowski	Bob Wanless
Susan Oakley	Deid Reimer	Surrey Libraries, Melanie	B. Wass
Mandy Ostick	Collin Rogers	Houlden	Erin Waugh
Avis Overby	Rusty Rook	Blair Surridge	Leanne Webster
Jason Packer	Jeff Rueger	Chad Tamis	Brandon Weigel
Laura Pactkau	Maya Russell	Janet Taylor	Joan Wenman
Joanne Parkman	Johanne Sauve	Tim Tewsley	Sandra Wideen
Parksville/Qualicum Riding Association, Sylvia Martin	Maureen Sawa	Christina Thiele	Jason Wilson
Ron Pascoe	Scott Scholefield	Deborah Thomas	Carmen Wiscman
Niovi Patsicakis	Jon Scop	Ryan Thomas	Robert Woloshyn
Rod Peck	Semiahmoo Arts, Mary	Ian Thomson	John Woods
Susan Peck	Brunet	Stephen Tighe	Robert Wotherspoon
Chad Pederson	Terry Sidhu	Caddie Tkenye	Jen Wryc
Ben Penner	Janice Simcoe	Julie Tran	John Yano
John Phillips	Lloyd Skaalen	Sylvia Treptow	
Judith Pickett	Small World	Michael Trew	
	Musicfolder.Com Inc.,	Iva Tuttle	
	Ian Bullen	Jim Underhill	

